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THE SPHERE, APRIL 1, 1944
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THE SPHERE

Vol. CLXXVII No. 2306 WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE GRAPHIC APRIL 1 1944

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Volume CLXXVII No. 2306 The SPHERE, London, April 1, 1944

THE SPHERE
With which is incorporated "THE GRAPHIC"
The Empire's Illustrated Weekly

WHAT THE R.A.F. HAVE DONE TO BERLIN **DURING RECENT RAIDS ON THE CENTRAL AREAS OF THE GERMAN CAPITAL. This is an area of approximately 1,100 yards by 850 yards immediately south of the Tiergarten and east of the Zoological Gardens. The Landwehr Canal runs from left to right, and the Lutzow Platz is seen in the lower left centre. Block after block in this considerable area has been completely gutted—striking evidence of the devastation caused by uncontrollable fires**

This photograph, and those reproduced on pp. 4-5, were secured recently by an R.A.F. reconnaissance aircraft over Berlin. They are the most graphic yet obtained showing the effect of R.A.F. Bomber Command's tremendous blows at the heart of the German capital since the real Battle of Berlin was opened by the heavy night-bombers in November 1943. Since that time, and to the date of this reconnaissance, Berlin had been visited fifteen times in very great strength by the R.A.F. alone. The honeycombing effect of uncontrollable fires which swept block after block is particularly evident in the districts around the western end of the Tiergarten. The enlargements given on this page and on pp. 4-5 of specific areas in the German capital emphasise the havoc that has been wrought by R.A.F. bombing

Postage—Inland, 2d.; Canada and Newfoundland, 1d.; Elsewhere Abroad, 1½d.

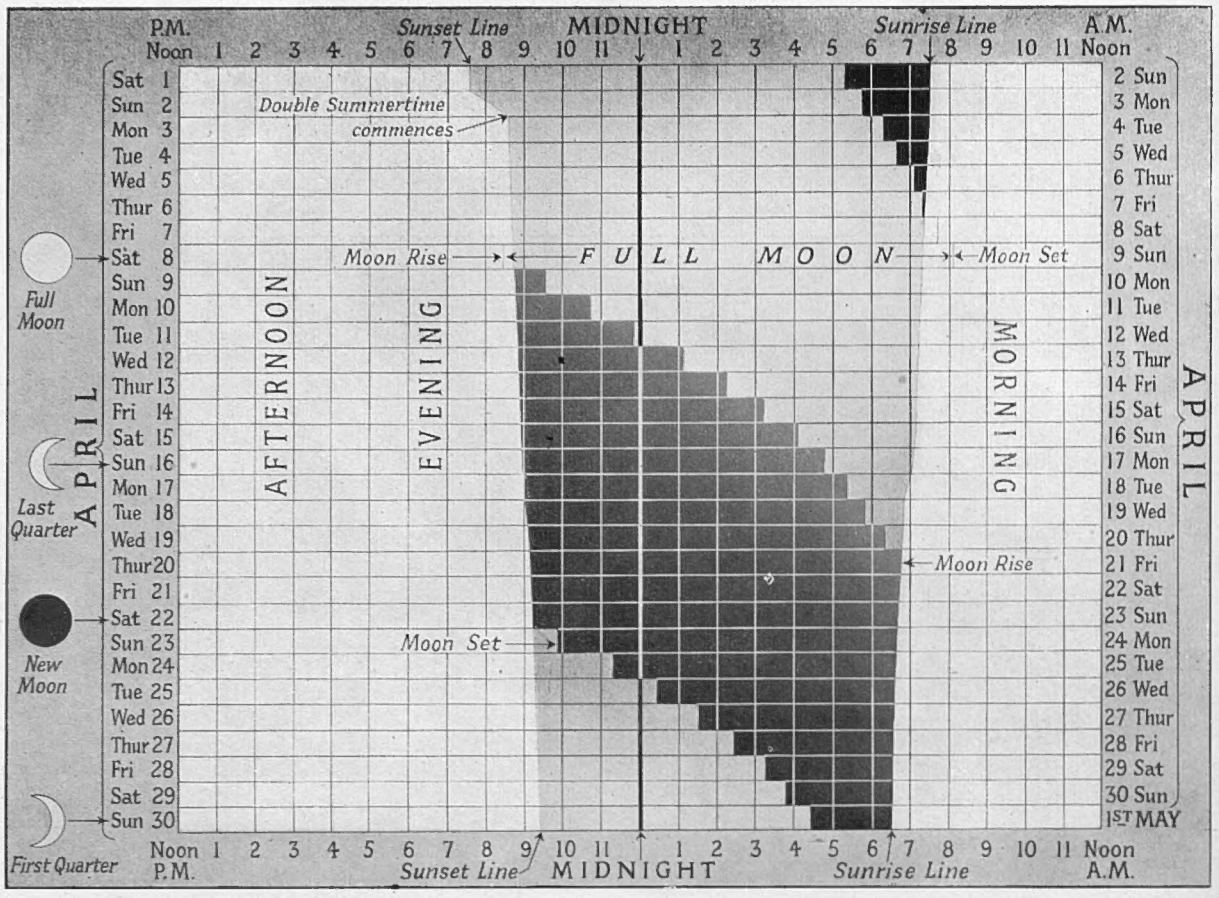
A WAR NEWSLETTER —No. 239

1, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.1.

Red Pimpernel.—Where the devil have those Russians got now? I seek him here, I seek him there, but that elusive pimpernel always eludes my latest-cut map. And henceforth I must abandon commentary and "run cunning" with prophecy. It looks bad when my remarks on the capture of Kherson appear as news on the day when the dailies are making play with business on the banks of Pruth. I don't know when "these lines will see print." Shall I gamble on Lwow, Cernauti, Odessa, and describe the booty which fell to the Pimpernel in those strongholds? Or shall I estimate the visible supplies (in barrels) at Ploesti, or describe the scenery on the western slopes of the Carpathians? Or shall I give a picture of the ruined streets of Berlin (from air photographs supplied by the M.O.I.)? Or, alternatively, shall I obstinately maintain my balance of probability and remind all wishful thinkers that there is no escape from the Western Assault; that mountain ranges and concrete defences in depth, rivers and bogs, strewn across 600 miles of territory, lie still between the Red Army and Berlin, and that, even for Stalin's marshals and men, the impossible is not yet a probable? Nor yet for the Western Allies the dread and dreadful certainly.

Italy.—If I have written little about the Italian fronts, it does not mean that I have thought little. I have thought much and sympathetically of what our men have done and suffered in a form of warfare of which at least I know something from old experience. When our men were in the trenches in Flanders and the Somme (in the last war) and Allenby was driving the enemy back in the East in open warfare, it was Allenby who got the halfpence and Haig the kicks. And these last weeks (it is natural) the limelight and the bouquets have gone to the Russian front, for all that Russian mud is deeper and nastier than Flanders ooze, and Russian difficulties as great as any encountered in the static warfare of 1916 or 1917. It is natural enough and only half unjust. The Russians deserve every bouquet, and then some But so, in all conscience, do our Eighth, Fifth and Allied armies and forces. They are writing new chapters in the record of military courage, endurance and initiative under intolerable conditions, holding, advancing, sticking it, in pestilent conditions in the most difficult terrain imaginable. And the flower of our manhood is dying for those bloodily-gained inches. We have faith in our armies and in those who lead them and planned for them. The Italian venture was never planned without a contour map of Italy; the normal (or abnormal) conditions of weather in the mountains south of Rome were examined before the broad plans were laid. Neither the existence of mountains nor foul winter weather can have come as a surprise to them. They knew what they were about. Chances were taken, and perhaps missed. That is war—always a guessing game. But these men, fighting in Italy so grandly, are doing a vital job, influencing the tides of battle hundreds of miles away. They are in our thoughts and hearts, a constant source of pride and anxiety. God keep them!

Medals.—The parable of the labourers in the Vineyard again! We are not content to receive every man a penny. We think we deserve tuppence and the other fellow a bare halfpenny. Mr. Churchill put it all fairly and fully, sympathetically and gracefully, and with humour. If it seems odd to interrupt the war effort to defeat our mortal danger (before it be too late) with a debate on haberdashery, it seems odd only to those who refuse to accept the accepted weaknesses of human nature. Men cannot live by bread alone. They need sugar cakes. A pat on the back (in visible form) is stimulus and makes for dignity, responsibility and serenity of mind. In the end (I make no doubt) everybody will get a bit of ribbon; except the British housewife, of course, who has borne the burden so bravely, so cheerfully, in "mufti," on the Home Front. She must be content with oratorical dewdrops; and when she proudly "shows her medals," they will be the medals of her menfolk and maids in uniform. Well, she expected that. It won't worry her. She is immune, she is immense. She is above rubies and gewgaws. If anything can vulgarise medal-ribbon, it will be *her* omission from the great divide.



"THE SPHERE" MOONLIGHT CHART FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, showing the period of no moonlight and the period when the moon will be at its full

A limited number of these charts will be supplied free of charge on application to the Publisher, "The Sphere," Commonwealth House, 1, New Oxford Street, W.C.1, but 2½d. in stamps must be enclosed with the application

Scurrilous Critics.—"As the day lengthens, so the frost strengthens" is a countryman's saw born of observation out of time. And certainly the wind continues to be bitter. A journalist's variant suggests that as the war lengthens, the wind of criticism grows more bitter. Constructive criticism is good for any journalist and he welcomes it, especially if he doesn't take too pompous a view of his calling. The critic he despises is the bludgeoner or garrotter who lies in wait to assault him without notice; the reader who dashes off an insult, anonymous or with a signature illegible from sheer fury, because of some opinion expressed with which he disagrees; the egotist who longs to express himself but, finding no editor ready to employ his services, falls back on "letters to the Press" and wordy insults concerning other men's views which do find their way into print; the suspicious mind ever ready to cry "treachery," "subversion," "cowardice," "pro-Nazism," "anti-Churchill," wherever he meets any honest effort to pierce the fogs of war and to set out the pros and cons of problems of the hour. If the criticism of such readers (I find them an insignificant handful) were to be taken seriously, our Press would be more enslaved than Goebbels'. How often Mr. Churchill, who has spent a fighting life in support of freedom of opinion, must cry, "Save me from my friends of this type." Much of what is produced in words every day is redundant and unnecessary. The output of the miner or the farmer is 100 per cent. important. The miner and the farmer know their worth and use their worth as a handle to secure their charter. But the honest journalist, too, is *conscius recti*, and has a charter of sorts. I have, and in it is no clause which bids me truckle to the scurrilous, the anonymous, the egotistical and the Gestapo opinion of correspondents-in-vitriol. I rely on my majority of readers. Neither they nor I expect journalism to be omniscience or *vox dei* in any form, or indeed even a pattern of consistency. They ask only that it should be indifferent, honest opinion (of the hour), reasonably restrained, reasonably courageous, reasonably sane and impartial. They do not want it to be the ape and mirror of every shade of view. Only the garrotter insists on that. To any such garrotter who thinks *any* journalist is a fair and easy Aunt Sally for his half-bricks, I personally say "Guess again" or look out for a whole brick back.

Human Frailties—Amiable and Otherwise.—Constantly I am shocked by the enormous interruption in the national war effort due to the necessary truckling to human weaknesses, innocent and otherwise. I see that evidence in every walk and field. I will take one or two unrelated examples. The desire for visible recognition of good service is an amiable and innocent human weakness. Yet to satisfy it, the labour involved in factory and offices to implement the desire is out of all proportion to its value. Take the "flashes" for C.D. and H.G. These visible signs must be turned out in factories and distributed through hundreds of offices whose first duty should be the training and organisation of their forces for defence at a now once more vital juncture. And here, from the experience of a magistrate, I cull a couple of examples of less amiable weaknesses. Village gossip and scandalmongering leads to an assault. The case comes to court Half-a-dozen busy magistrates, three or four policemen, two or more solicitors, all with essential work to do, may waste an entire day, with the working hours of many witnesses (farmers, and so on), in the hearing of a miserable trial of pygmy matters in dispute. Or a rebel against authority, an egotist with persecution mania, may mortgage the time of a score of officials for weeks, and even months, on end before at last he is jugged for refusal to pay his fines or attend his summons to court. It is magnificent that we answer these saboteurs of the war effort not with rubber truncheons and concentration camps, but with all the facilities of civilised justice, and all the deference due to the good citizen seeking his rights. It is magnificent, but it is not war. And I wonder by how many irretrievable months these amiable and unamiable saboteurs have prolonged this present disaster and national danger.

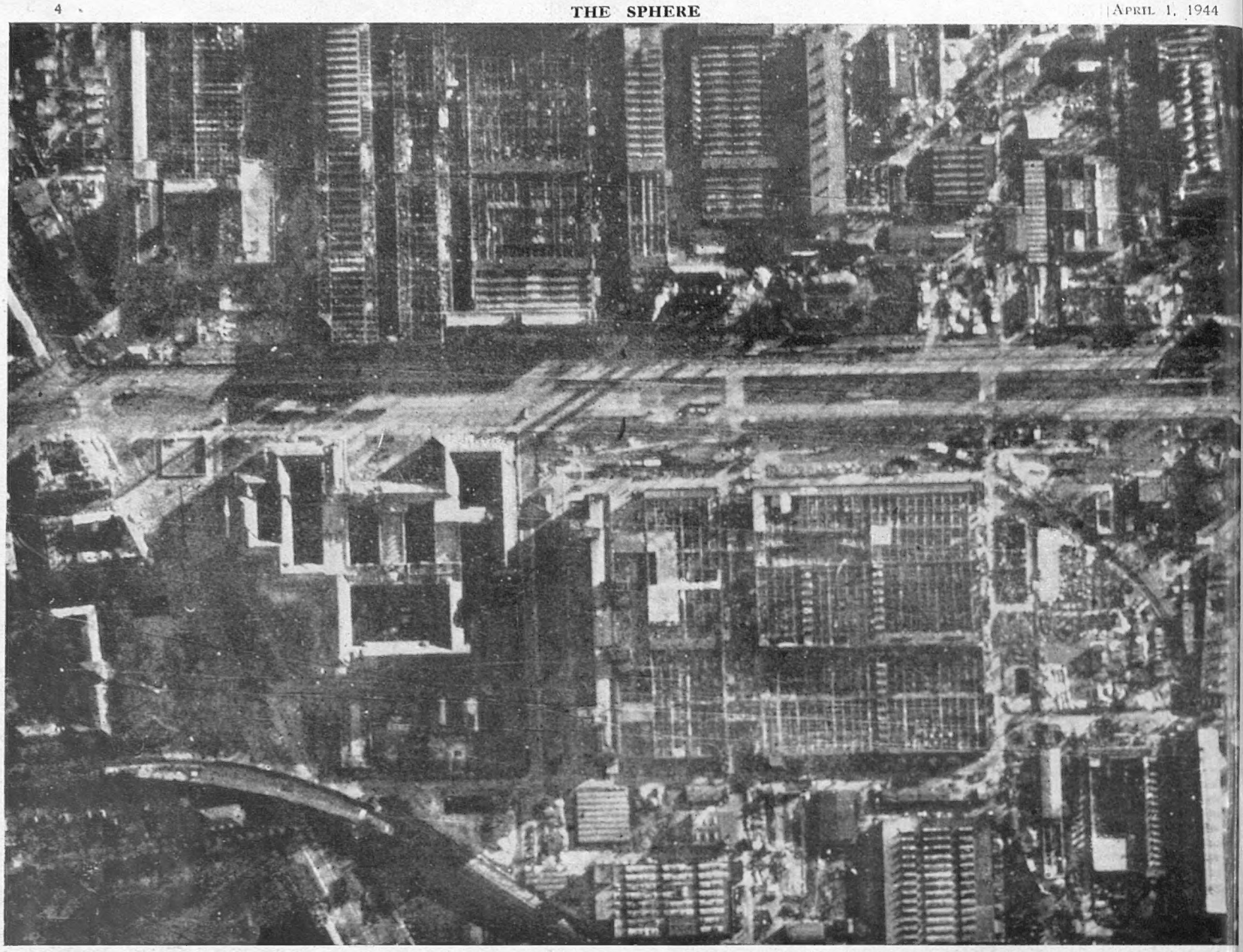
"Privileged" Fledglings?—Walking down Eton High Street the other day, I concluded that a visit to the famous school to-day would disarm any surviving critics of privilege in education—and disarm at a mere glance. It still costs a deal of money to park your boy in King Henry's holy shade and leave him to find his way to the sunshine and light of knowledge; and still, I believe, in essentials (attention to the individual, development of individual bents and character, and so forth) the money is not thrown away But the boys are not band-box boys. It is clear enough they are no longer, if ever, wrapped in cotton wool. The clothes-brush and the hat-brush are laid aside, and they have much still to learn of the use of the boot-brush. If the little Etonian is a walking advertisement in Eton High Street, he doesn't advertise privilege to-day. I had a sentimental twinge as I passed so many little dusty scarecrows. I felt no doubt that they were still being well fed and well looked after in school hours—that *business* was as usual—but that with the organisation of their leisure and their wardrobes, five years of war had played havoc; the clock has gone back and in some particulars life at Eton had retrogressed to the hard school of 1840. And those particulars have not lost their importance to-day—on the contrary, they are the very particulars which national conscience to-day requires to be stepped up in national schools. Odd? THE OLD STAGER

TWO PICTURES from CASSINO

Where the Struggle for the Town and for Monastery Hill Still Continues Fiercely

BRITISH RIFLEMEN IN ACTION AT CASSINO ENSCONCED BEHIND ROCKS AT THE FOOT OF A SLOPE OVERLOOKING THE TOWN. The battle for Cassino and Monastery Hill began on March 15, when medium and heavy bombers rained bombs on many objectives for four hours (see pages 14-15 of this issue). This was continued by the greatest artillery barrage so far laid in the Italian theatre of war, to cover the advance of the Allied tanks and infantry as they entered the town. Fierce fighting then took place in Cassino, in which the New Zealanders were prominent in reducing many of the enemy strong-points. The Germans, however, hit back hard; later, they regained some of the ground they had lost in the first days of the Allied attacks

AFTER THE NEW ZEALANDERS HAD BEEN IN ACTION: German troops taken prisoner are held by two soldiers beside a Sherman tank. During the battle for Cassino, New Zealand troops formed the spearhead of the advance into the town, after having been transferred from the Eighth Army front on the other side of Italy



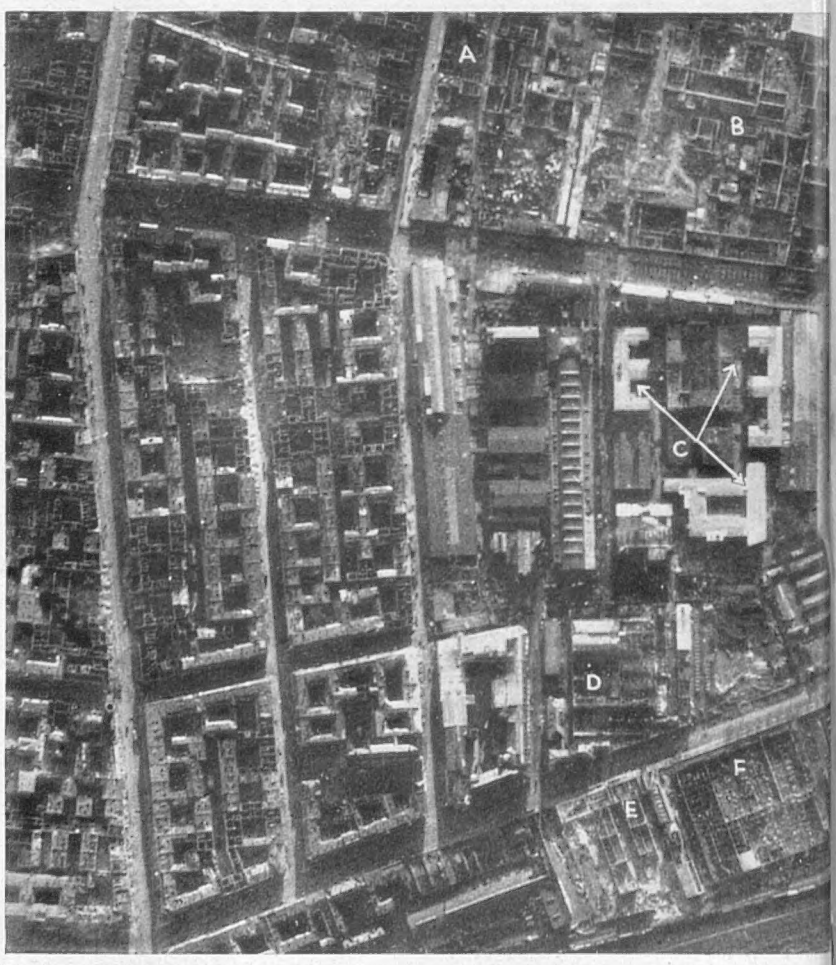
IN THE OUTER INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS OF BERLIN, HEAVY DAMAGE HAS BEEN CAUSED TO HIGH-PRIORITY MUNITION PLANTS, in addition to the devastation wrought in the heart of the capital itself. In earlier attacks on Berlin (before the R.A.F. penetrated in force to the central areas), these targets had been heavily hit. Recent reconnaissance reveals that—whilst, in some cases, repair work has been attempted—further heavy damage has been inflicted. A notable example is the great Siemens electrical concern, two major plants of which are shown by the photographs to have been heavily hit. This one shows the Siemens and Halske electrical plant at Siemenstadt. Over an area of approximately 900 yards by 720 yards there is very heavy damage in all sections, including the switchgear works, dynamo works, research laboratories, warehouses and offices. *(A second photograph of this area is given on the facing page)*

BERLIN AFTER THE R.A.F. RAIDS

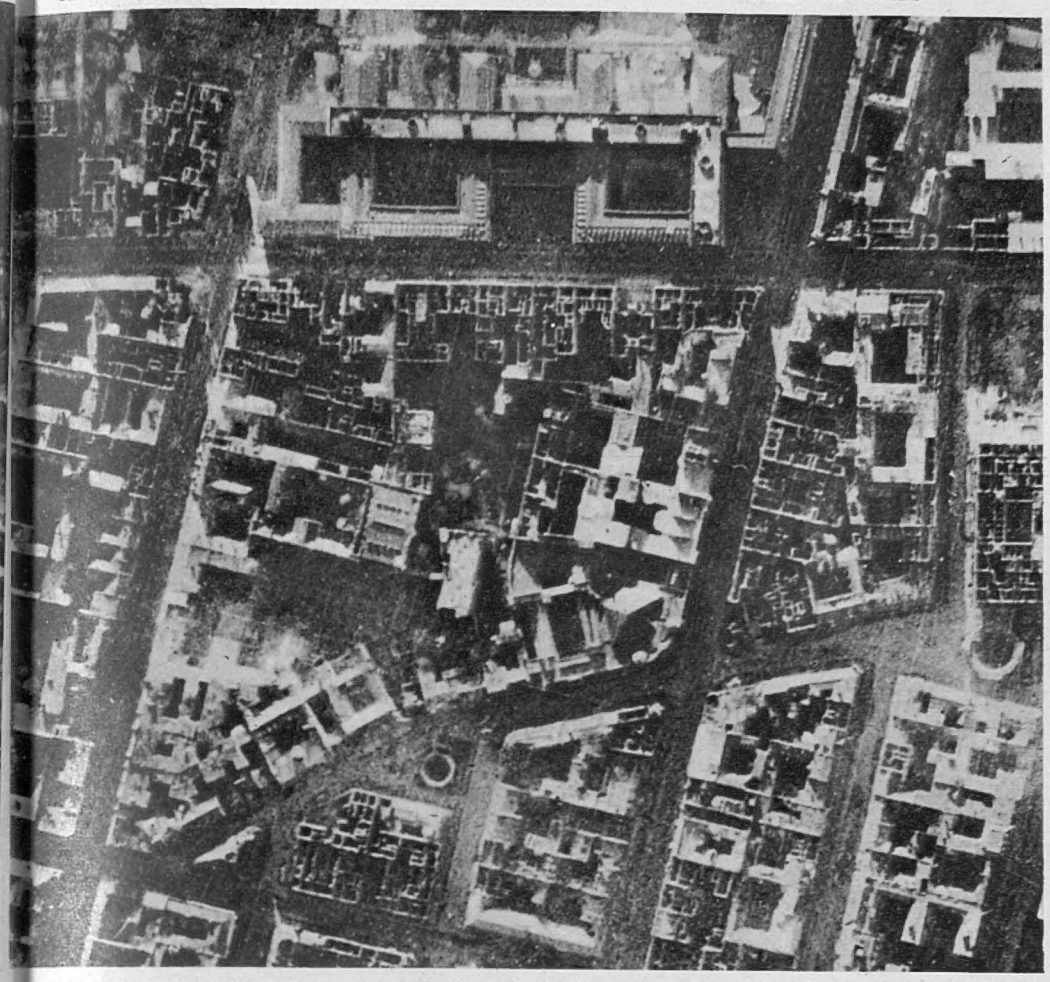
The Heart of the German Capital Laid Waste Since the Opening of the Battle of Berlin in November 1943

THE GUTTED GASHOLDER OF THE STADT GASWERK (in centre), south of the Tiergarten, with the burned-out Scala fronting on the Lutherstrasse to the left. Here the area shown is approximately 550 yards by 400 yards

A set of official photographs just released by the Air Ministry to show the damage to Berlin achieved by Bomber Command since the opening of the real Battle of Berlin by the heavy night bombers in November 1943. Fifteen attacks in very great strength have been made since then and up to the time of the securing of these pictures



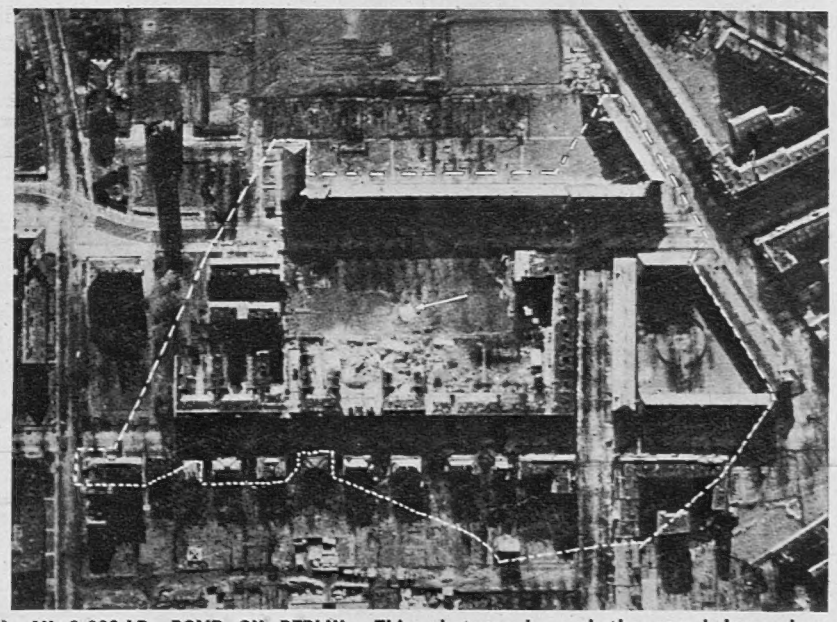
IN THE CENTRE OF BERLIN. A—Engineering firm's premises destroyed; B—Premises occupied by a group of automobile engineers completely destroyed; C—Roofs of buildings belonging to two engineering firms repaired after damage from a previous attack; D—Iron foundry, belonging to A.E.G., severely damaged by high explosive and fire; E—Osram G.m.b.h., makers of radio valves and associated products, practically all gutted; F—One of the A.E.G. works, making parts for turbines—large buildings all destroyed



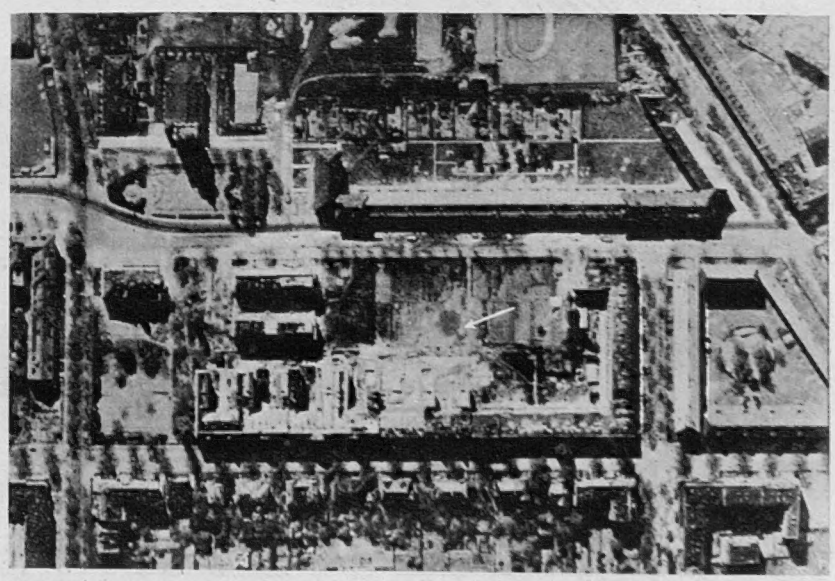
THE AIR MINISTRY BUILDING (at top of picture—the largest building in the view). This fronts the Wilhelmstrasse, in Berlin, and lies between the Leipzigerstrasse, on the right, and the Zimmerstrasse, on the left, in the heart of the capital's Whitehall. Although the Air Ministry shows no obvious sign of damage, many public and official buildings in the immediate neighbourhood are either completely destroyed or very severely damaged. The area shown here is approximately 700 yards by 620 yards

THE MOABIT DISTRICT, north-west of the Tiergarten. Here there is overwhelming evidence of a tremendous spread of fire. In the left centre is the Hansa Platz, and the Spree runs from top right to bottom left. The area shown is approximately 1,200 yards by 900 yards

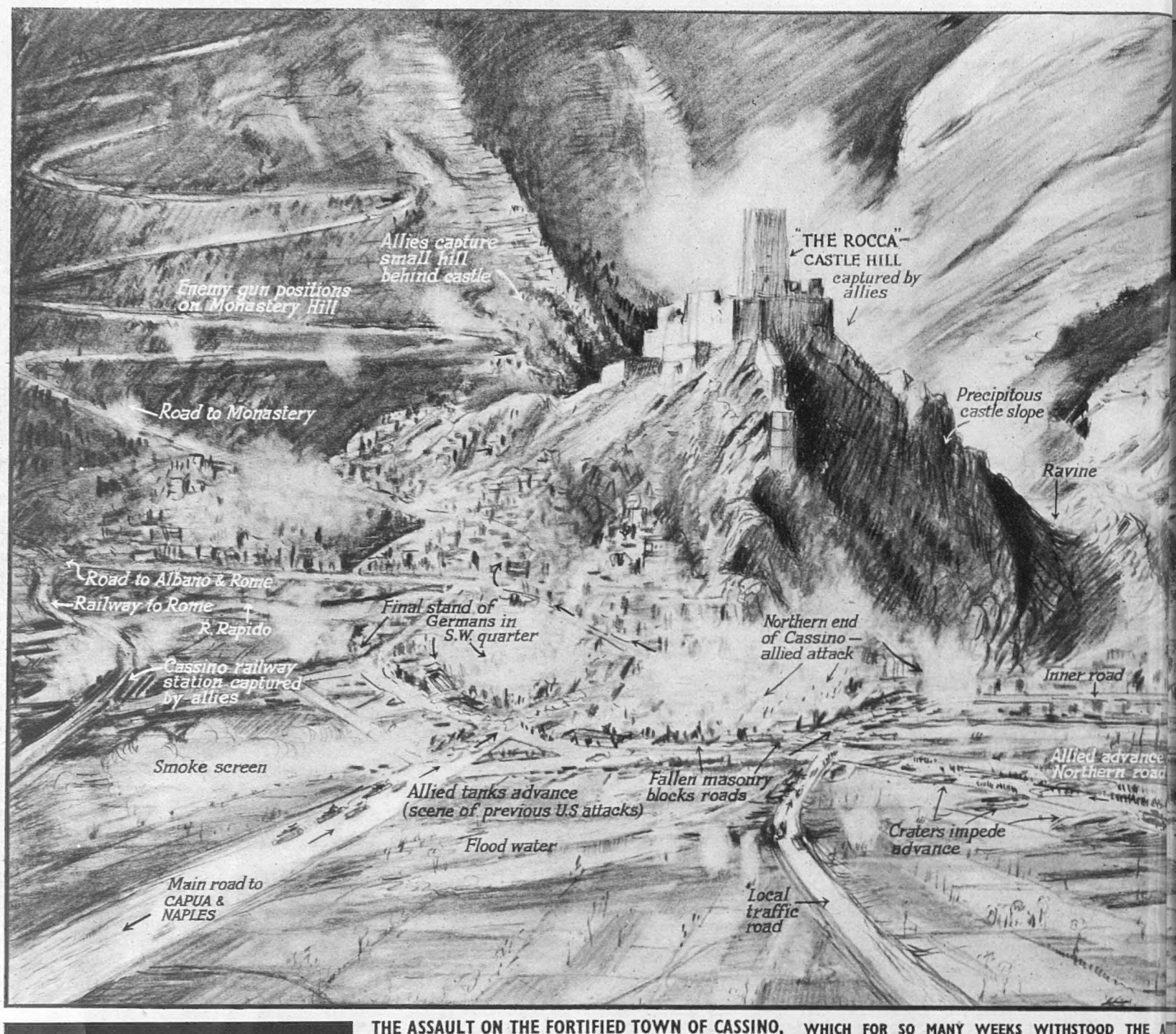
ANOTHER SECTION OF THE SIEMENS AND HALSKE PLANT AT SIEMENSTADT (see also top left of facing page). Severe damage caused by the R.A.F. attacks in September 1943 was, in part repaired and clearance work was carried out. But later attacks caused fresh damage among the buildings of the chemical works, electrical machine workshops and the railway control system building. The area shown here is approximately 800 yards by 600 yards



I—AN 8,000-LB. BOMB ON BERLIN: This photograph, and the one below, show the effects of a block-buster dropped in a Berlin suburb. The upper picture was taken a month after the bomb was dropped. It shows the crater filled in (marked with an arrow) and the visible area of destruction, covering approximately 4,700 yards. The outer dotted line shows an area of approximately 14 acres, over which buildings are seen to have been damaged by blast, as revealed by re-roofing and repairs



II—AN 8,000-LB. BOMB ON BERLIN: This picture, taken still later than the one above, shows the bombed site after considerable clearance. The ends of damaged buildings have been squared off and the crater surface levelled over



THE ASSAULT ON THE FORTIFIED TOWN OF CASSINO, WHICH FOR SO MANY WEEKS WITHSTOOD THE A ONSLAUGHTS. The lines of assault across the Valley of the Rapido, and how the Allied columns entere town by various routes after an artillery and air bombardment of unprecedented ferocity. The famous Hill is shown in the centre of the drawing : the Monastery lies outside it, beyond the top-left hand—*Drawing by Percy*

CASSINO—The Storming of the Town and its Castle Hill

How the Allied Infantry followed up the Terrific Bombardment

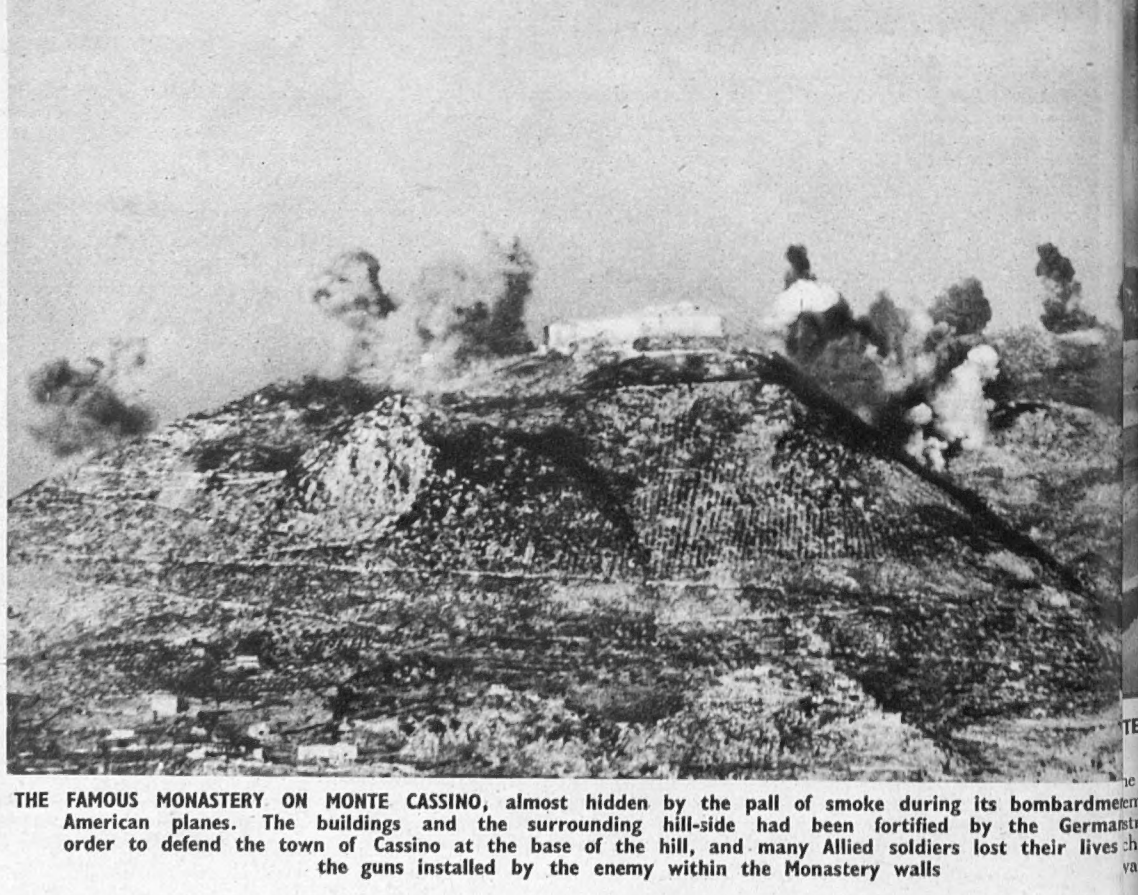
—*Special* Sphere *Drawings* (*see also pp.* 14-15)

The concerted attack on Cassino opened from the north. Allied infantry and tanks advanced towards it along what was described as a specially-constructed road leading up to the northern outskirts of the town. A creeping barrage and smoke-screens gave protection to the infantry, who advanced in short rushes from cover to cover.

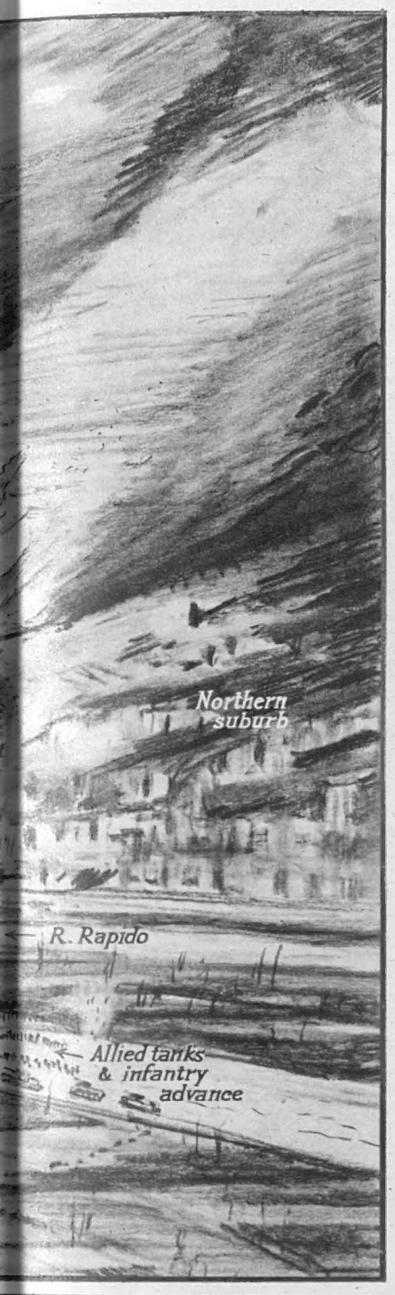
This cover was provided by the masses of fallen debris from the destroyed houses. Towering above the scene is the Castle Hill, a mass of rough limestone unscalable on its northern side (at the foot of which a ravine adds to the natural strength of the site). The air and artillery bombardment during the morning had destroyed the upper parts of nearly every building in the town, save a few which were hidden by a shoulder of the Castle Hill. The infantry fought their way through this tangle of debris towards the south-west portion of the town, where the Germans were making a desperate stand in the chief hotel. In the same area is the Railway Station, captured by the Allies after a fierce struggle.

The situation for the attacking force was made difficult by the natural features of the scene. Rising behind the Castle Hill are the lower slopes of Monastery Hill, with its winding roadways. All this high ground provided gun sites, hidden in caves; tunnels and crevices for the German guns, mortars and *nebelwerfers* to operate against exposed bodies of infantry or tanks.

The fighting gradually included most of the town, as well as a large area of the lower slopes of Monastery Hill. Allied forces worked their way forward behind Castle Hill and secured small eminences: these were later counter-attacked by the Germans with varying success. The enemy showed great stubbornness at every point, direct hits being required to knock out gun after gun

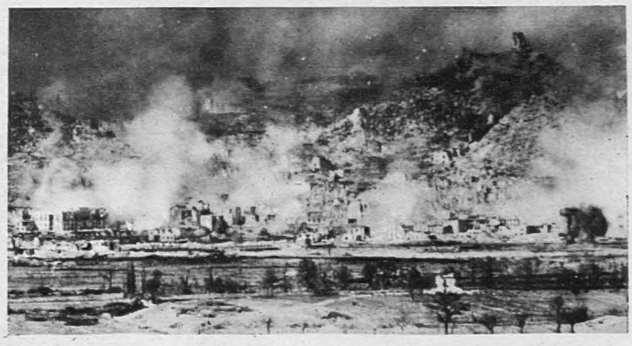


THE FAMOUS MONASTERY ON MONTE CASSINO, almost hidden by the pall of smoke during its bombardme American planes. The buildings and the surrounding hill-side had been fortified by the Germa order to defend the town of Cassino at the base of the hill, and many Allied soldiers lost their lives the guns installed by the enemy within the Monastery walls

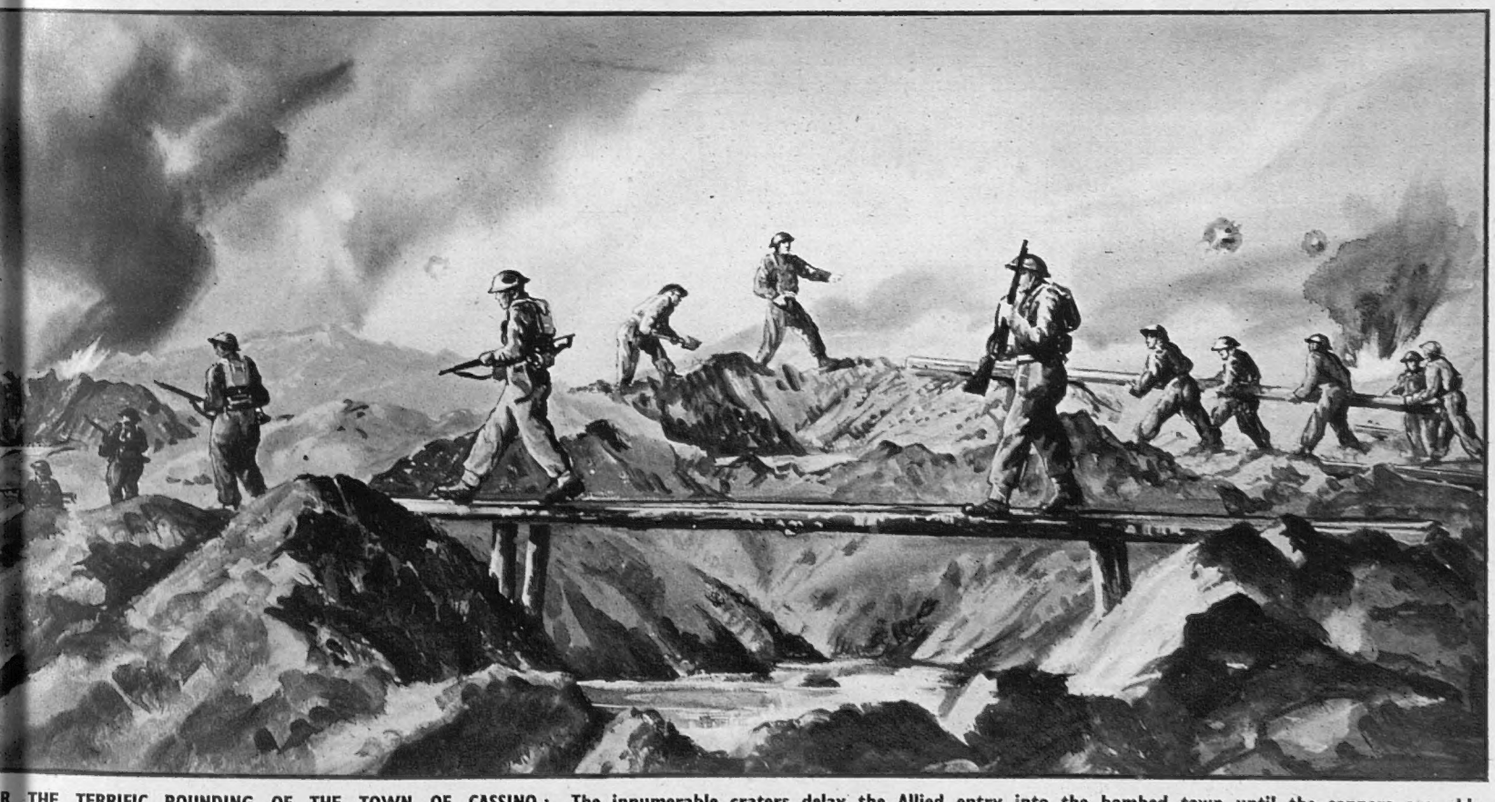


THE BIGGEST ALLIED BOMBERS TAKE PART IN THE BOMBARDMENT OF CASSINO. The town and its Castle Hill are lost to sight under the clouds of smoke as the Fortresses unload their high explosives—*Drawing by Roland Davies*

The preliminary assault on the town of Cassino was carried out by both aircraft and artillery. A defended, stone-built town is one of the hardest nuts to crack in modern warfare. Early in the morning the medium bombers went in, operating from a height of 8,000 to 10,000 ft. Then the "heavies"—Fortresses and Liberators—took up the running. The tendency of the big bombers to "spread" their loads meant that the infantry had to be withdrawn from the objective to a considerable distance away. In the case of medium bombers, the withdrawal is considerably less. "There is a quality of lordly, even arrogant, impersonality about a bombing attack on this scale," wrote one observer of the scene. "The bomber achieves a haughty and rather terrible detachment. It appears to operate after the manner of some relentless force of Nature than of a machine fashioned and controlled by men. . . . They passed serenely overhead, they discharged their mission, they returned in the same serene manner. I say that, without any exception, this was the most terrible display of air power that I have ever seen"



DURING THE AIR BOMBARDMENT OF CASSINO, one of the most concentrated of the war. The town and the Castle Hill (top right) are being bombed by wave after wave of Allied planes



R THE TERRIFIC POUNDING OF THE TOWN OF CASSINO: The innumerable craters delay the Allied entry into the bombed town until the sappers are able to erect light-infantry bridges across the shell-holes on the north road—*Drawing by E. G. Lambert*

of the problems arising out of a heavy combined attack on a fortified town was plified at Cassino. When the bombers, heavy and medium, went in to wreak uction on the stone buildings sheltering the German machine-gun posts, they created big craters on the roads that the Allied tanks and infantry were held up in their nce. The craters began to fill up with rain-water; the situation was such that no filling-in was possible. The sappers, working with great skill and courage under enemy mortar-fire, constructed bridges of various types to span the big holes. In order that the infantry might follow up the barrage without delay, light foot-bridges were constructed of the type shown in this drawing. The men proceeded forward in single file, and so into the rubble-choked town

THE FOUR PILLARS OF CZECH WISDOM

The Future of the Country which was the First to Fall Victim to Nazi Tyranny

By FERDINAND TUOHY

1939 : "A far-away land of which we know little."
1944 : "A near-at-hand country of which we 'll hear much."

SUCH, I venture to suggest, will prove to be Czechoslovakia during the next five years which, President Benes assures us, are to form a separate period "in the history of our State" from the first twenty years of the Republic.

We shall hear much of Czechoslovakia for an assortment of reasons. Because of Prague's central, key position in relation to Continental rehabilitation, political re-orientation and policing. Because the Czech leaders envisage their land as a bridge for cementing the U.S.S.R. with Western Europe, and their success or failure will show if a small, strong nation can influence Great Powers. Because Czech reliance on the U.S.S.R. should test whether the latter is to overlay its lesser neighbours. Because the alliances and close friendships formed by the Czechs will clarify whether regional agreements are an aid or a hindrance to a League successor.

Because the Czechs have adopted an active policy towards each of the Great Powers which will have the leading say in European affairs. Because what the Czechs manage or are allowed to do with their Germans will be a touchstone for the general problem. Because the Czechs' correction of past errors will give an indication of what has been learnt. Because Czechoslovakia's new domestic planning will hold an interest commensurate with this country's pioneering record betwixt wars. And, not least, because Czechoslovakia can be a practical friend of Britain's on the Continent, and is ready for the part.

WHEN HITLER WENT TO PRAGUE to proclaim the Czech State part of the German Empire : The scene in the historic Hradcanny Castle in March 1939, after Germany had invaded and occupied Czechoslovakia after the trumped-up Sudeten "problem." Hitler is on the right, addressing the members of the Czech Army Staff, with General Keitel in attendance. When Hitler later appeared on the balcony of the castle, "he was loudly cheered by a large gathering of German residents in Prague"

Czechoslovakia used to be called the chief success from Versailles. Thanks to Allied victory, which they ever respected, and still do, the Czechs went well on the way to a balanced and sensible democracy. They and the Slovaks had been held down under a feudal system, so first the land was split up among 650,000 small farmers. No estate larger than some 600 acres was permitted. In industry, conditions were vastly bettered by such things as the 8-hour day, factory committees, holidays with pay and sharing of mining profits.

Years before the war, a comprehensive Beveridge system was in operation, which covered 10,000,000 people in a population of 15,000,000. Under it, 1,500 hospitals, clinics and sanatoria were put at the disposal of the citizenry.

Expectant mothers could absent themselves for six months prior to birth, and afterwards; children were cared for under a lavish programme of Health First. Following which, they were given an education which Founder Masaryk intended should give a fundamental interest and dignity to life. If worship was not stressed, a complete level of tolerance and availability was practised. And the *mens sana* principle was rounded off by the Sokol system, under which 1,000,000 young people of both sexes pursued bodily fitness on the Greek model of inculcating comradeship, art and beauty, as distinct from the championship and commercial approaches to sport.

Utopia ? Not a bit of it ! The Czechs made mistakes, not least towards the Slovaks. Too many political parties were encouraged, and too much latitude was given to minorities for the security of the State to bear. A protectionist policy was adopted which helped to ruin Austria, and eventually it reacted on the Czechs themselves. The Czechs were too fussy over passports and permits, too self-assertive for a budding people. But these hard-headed folk had only just come from under, and that is the way of things.

What matters to-day is that the mistakes are admitted. And that, together with their lack of rancour, is something to admire in the Czechs. For recollect how their country "fell" through little fault of the owners. How, in 1938, they were ready to defend themselves in a strong military position on the strength of treaties with Russia and France, and through France, touching Britain. Old history ? Yes, but new history too, since Czechoslovakia intends to push off afresh, relying once again on the same three countries, Russia, Britain and France, plus the United States.

As the western Slav outpost, Czechoslovakia signed an all-in treaty with Russia, which differs from the pre-war one in that either party will assist the other regardless of the existence of any other treaties. The tie will be fortified by a re-arrangement of trade in Russia's regard. Provided the Anglo-Russian Treaty works, the Czechs see themselves automatically linked with Britain through their own alliance with the U.S.S.R. With regard to the United States, strong Czech sympathies prevail there, and a Hoover Street and a Wilson Station commemorate the fact in Prague.

THE FÜHRER RIDES THROUGH CZECHOSLOVAKIA—in triumph, but closely guarded. Another picture taken in March 1939 as Hitler drove through the Czech town of Brunn after the annexation of Czechoslovakia. He was closely followed by the usual Nazi gunmen, and the soldiers lining the route faced outwards—towards the populace

But the Czechs believe that Europe requires a fourth pillar. In the words of President Benes: "Continental security demands a fourth principal pillar—France." Foreign Minister Ripka looks to "the restoration of France as a Great Power, the existence of which is one of the main conditions for an ensured peace and security in the world." A firm agreement already exists between President Benes and General de Gaulle. At the darkest moment, in London, they encouraged one another when many despaired, and the General regards President Benes as "a symbol of the cause for which the Allies are fighting."

It will be seen that the Czechs are in a peculiarly strong position by reason of their friendships with all four of their elected "pillars," to aid in the re-establishment of Europe in a degree out of proportion to the space they occupy on the map. They should owe much to their leader, whose wartime journeyings must come second only to Mr. Churchill's. Moscow, Washington, the Middle East, North Africa—Eduard Benes returns from them all as lively at sixty-three as he used to be at fifty-three and at forty-three at Geneva (where he doubtless learnt much, about himself as well as about others).

No one knows to what vindictive lengths the Germans may go before they leave Bohemia. In addition to the best part of 3,000,000 Sudeten Germans, nearly 2,500,000 other Germans have been settled in the "Protectorate" in the past five years, and, one and all, know what the Czechs have in mind. The Czechs want to push the whole lot out. In a radio call from London, M. Benes forecast "a mass anti-German revolution throughout Czechoslovakia against everything relating to the Germans."

The revolt, however, is aimed much more at ridding the national territory of the compatriots of Heydrich than at practising vengeance, and may the Germans in their own interest remember that fact when they are tempted to lay about them on departure.

This desire to augment the population of the Reich meets with criticism. If everyone does the same thing, runs the disapproval, Germany will soon enough burst again. Well, it 's a big question. But an estimate is that by the compulsory exchange of national minorities between Germany on the one side and Czechoslovakia and Poland on the other, the population of Germany would not be increased by more than one-twentieth.

At the time of the Soviet treaty the Czech Government left the door wide open to a strong, free and democratic Poland. There is readiness to welcome the Poles into more of Upper Silesia than formerly, and this despite what happened when the Czechs were down and out in 1939. Without desiring to push Pan-Slavism, which is seen as a danger rather than a boon, the Czechs are working for a Slav Entente between themselves, the Poles, the Ukrainians, White Russians and Russians. This, they believe, is the best guarantee against a fresh German Drang nach Osten.

As important as the Czechs' attitude to the Poles are their intentions towards Austria and, through an agrarian Republic of Hungary, towards South Eastern Europe as a whole. Dr. Ripka has more than once come out for "a close political and economic collaboration with an independent Austrian democracy." This is almost an about-turn from the past.

A useful thing about the Czechs is that they know what they are after and possess moderation and good sense, attributes which have gained them many new friends. "A strange dispensation of destiny," says Dr. Ripka, "has deepened and extended Anglo-Czech friendship." Dr. Benes was thinking of it when, after looking in on a fellow-voyager at Marrakesh, he observed that his country "had not been ungrateful after the First World War and would not be ungrateful after this one."

However, the Czechs mean to avoid a repetition of 1938, and it will be of no avail for some of us snug islanders to protest against "this small militaristic State" when the Czechs re-arm, as they intend to: a strong Army and a far stronger Air Force than formerly. It will be a foolish cry, because aggression is alien to Czech thought, whilst their forces would be among the first placed at the disposal of a successor League.

THE MAN WHO BROUGHT ABOUT THE CZECH DOWNFALL. Konrad Heinlein, the leader of the Sudeten Germans, who was exiled by the Czechs, but later appointed by Hitler as Nazi Commissioner for the annexed territory

But all this is the future. What of the present ?

From London, the Czech Government have called upon all Czechs and Slovaks to come out in organised revolt without further waiting. There have been complaints in Moscow papers that Czech resistance has been too passive, even lagging, compared with guerilla activities in other occupied countries. Yet one can imagine people who feel themselves hated and marked being chary about revolting prematurely.

A matter for the Czechs; even as they will later have to face demands by the Czech Communist leader Gottwalk, when they come to rebuilding their free and democratic Republic, second edition. Gottwalk, who is in Moscow, claims that the big financial, industrial and agrarian interests and their political representatives failed at their jobs, and that too many went voluntarily over to the enemy.

Maybe, along with others, the Czechs would like to take the best from Russia, while remaining themselves.

The ANDARTES of GREECE

The Guerrilla Army which is Resisting the German Invaders

March 25 is Greek Independence Day. This year, the hope of freedom came nearer to reality for the people of Greece, who have never ceased to pray and to work for deliverance from the German yoke. Amongst those who have fought to make the hope a reality are the Andartes, the guerrilla army of Greek patriots. Since the first days of the German occupation the Andartes have been a force to be reckoned with: to-day they are a perpetual menace to the invader. Except in the cities and certain strongholds, no German is safe. The roads, bridges and railways throughout the country are under constant attack by the guerrilla bands. With the loss of the Italians and their own desperate needs in Russia, the Germans are unable to defend even their main communication lines in Greece. The task of the Andartes is not simple, however. The Germans, unable to hold down the country by force of arms, have resorted to reprisals against the civilian population. In some areas they have burnt every village within a circle of 50 miles in reply to a successful coup by the Greeks. Thus a floating population of over a million civilians has taken refuge in the mountains, and must be fed and supplied. But the Andartes, with experience of past centuries of fighting an invader, increasingly well-armed and now united in a common effort against the Germans, will play an even more important part when the time for the liberation of Greece comes

A BAND OF GREEK GUERRILLAS, OR ANDARTES, gather for a meal up in the hills. From their fastnesses they swoop down on the Germans, cutting lines of communication and wreaking acts of sabotage

FIGHTING FOR THE FREEDOM OF HER COUNTRY: A Greek woman who is enrolled in the ranks of the Andartes

AN ANDARTE CARRYING ONE OF THE BRITISH LIAISON OFFICERS across a river up in the mountain regions

AN ITALIAN ARMOURED CAR (Autoblinda 40) captured by the Andartes before the Italian capitulation

BRITISH LIAISON OFFICERS WORKING WITH THE GREEK GUERRILLAS. In the background may be seen the scrub-covered mountains which the Andartes have made their home

A BRIDGE IN THESSALY BLOWN UP BY THE GUERRILLAS. Epirus and Thessaly are the two principal areas of operation for the Andartes: through these run the main German north to south supply routes

The USE of the TANK in ITALY

Where the Methods of Warfare are Different from Those Formerly Employed in the Western Desert

PERIODICALLY, military experts descend upon the tank and declare it to be full of grievous defects—if not altogether obsolete. In Parliament, a secret debate is taking place on this subject. The experts have had reports of shells knocking out the tanks and setting them on fire, when caught in some position into which they should not have been sent. The fact—not yet fully realised in certain quarters—is that the tank is peculiarly sensitive to its environment.

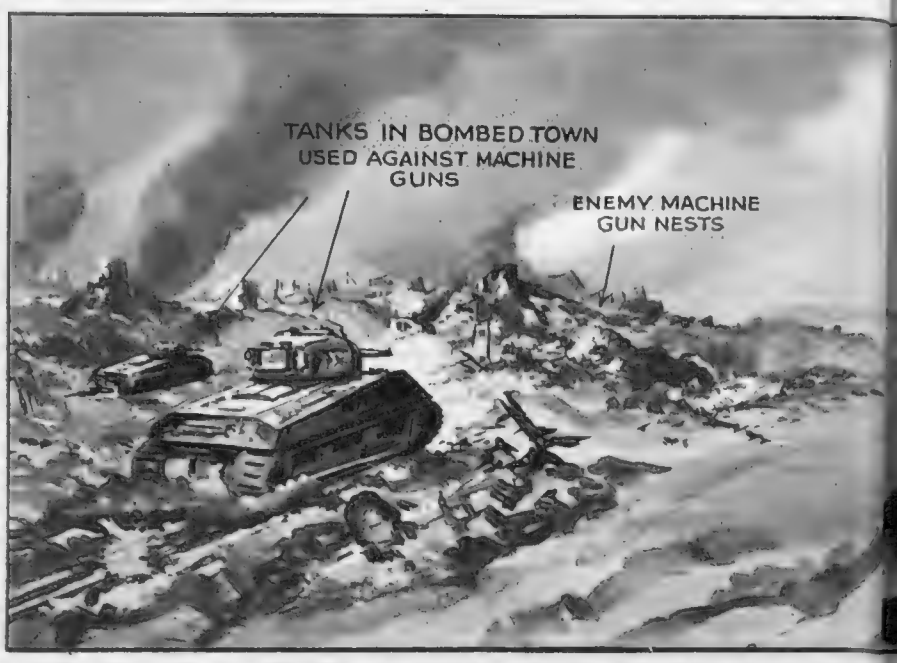
There are evidences that the enemy has been employing them from a distance. On occasions they have been thrown into a general assault to add to the total weight of the attack—obviously a High Command order which a tank commander "on the spot" might not have advocated, in view of unsuitable terrain, or some other similar consideration. On other occasions, German tanks have emerged ("sallied forth" would be a more appropriate phrase) upon bare, unprotected highways in a manner which has meant their almost immediate destruction—as at Caroceto during the recent Italian fighting.

On the other hand, a survey of the day-to-day uses to which tanks are being put by local commanders shows that this arm is a highly useful (indeed, an indispensable) weapon under certain conditions. Tanks, for instance, could be sent into the demolished streets of Cassino, where the principal targets were machine-gun nests. Here the tank could support the infantry by effective shell-fire, without running the risk of being knocked out by a superior counter-attack. On other occasions, the tank has "gone to earth" in useful fashion—as static artillery with hull-down silhouette alone exposed to the enemy. Again, where the broken nature of the country-side may have permitted it, tanks have usefully supported the infantry in an open attack.

HOW THE RUSSIANS USE THEIR TANKS: The Red Army has frequently been taken into action in this manner, crowded on the sides of the big vehicles. In this way, they have often been able to effect a surprise on the retreating Germans on the Eastern Front. This picture was taken during the operations around Leningrad earlier this year

Tanks have also been used as a means of rapidly concentrating a force at a given point. The men clamber like bees on to the vehicle's exterior and deploy when the scene of action is reached.

Only occasionally nowadays does an old-fashioned tank *v.* tank battle develop on the old Western Desert lines. But the situation may arise in broken mountain country, and it must not be overlooked when considering the possibilities of the tank's activities.



I—HOW THE TANK IS EMPLOYED IN WARFARE ON THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE. (th hull-down position to act as sta

the left, tanks are advancing into the bomb-shattered ruins of a town to wipe out machine-gun nests: in the centre, they are seen dug into the grounds in artillery: on the right, they are advancing across country to lend support to attacking infantry—*Drawing by E. G. Lambert*

II—HOW THE TANK IS EMPLOYED (CONT.). On the left, infantry have mounted the vehicle and are being carried into action: on the right, tank engages tank in the old Western Desert style, firing their guns over open sights—*Drawing by E. G. Lambert*

NEW HALF-TRACK VEHICLE used by the Americans in the Cassino area. The armament consists of an automatic 37-mm. gun and two ·50-calibre machine-guns. The vehicle is self-propelled, and its sides are armoured: usually camouflaged netting conceals "half-track" and guns—*Drawing by B. C. Wood*

THE BIGGEST-YET BRITISH ARMOURED CAR—the A.E.C. Mark II. Details of this biggest and most powerful armoured car have only just been released. The A.E.C. Mark II carries the punch of a tank in the form of the now famous 6-pounder anti-tank gun: in addition, it mounts a 7·92-mm. Besa machine-gun, mounted co-axially with the 6-pounder, and a light A.-A. machine-gun on top of the turret. Powered with a Diesel oil-engine of proved reliability, developing 153 b.h.p., the A.E.C. has a maximum road speed of 42 miles per hour. Across country it can reach 18 miles per hour. The armour is 1½ ins. thick in the front and 1 in. at the sides. The total loaded weight of the car is 12 tons, 12 cwts. A standard wireless set is carried. The tyres are of very large section and have the new familiar "run-flat" principle, which enables the car to keep going even after a puncture or a burst. The crew consists of commander, driver, gun-layer and loader, the latter acting as wireless operator as occasion demands

On left—THE GERMANS USE THEIR TANKS IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO FORCE THE ALLIES BACK ON THE ANZIO ROAD—*Drawing by W. G. Whitaker*

Within the beachhead, where the fighting has often been of the bitterest nature, the Germans have been driven to using their tanks on the highway in a manner which has exposed them to the Allied counter-fire—with disastrous results for the enemy. Down the exposed, coverless road the German tanks have been seen to start crawling towards the battle line. Our guns on these occasions have plastered them and sent up the roads into leaping fountains of earth. Men like black specks have been seen to jump out of the helpless vehicles into the illusive shelter of a ditch, as some of them were hit and flared up with oily smoke pouring out of them

CAPTIVE AMERICAN FLYING MEN. The German caption claims that all these men were shot down in one day over Occupied Europe. The men are en route to a prison camp for internment. The Germans quote their American prisoners as saying that the anti-aircraft defences had been "so awful that they thought they were in the infernal regions"!

THE R.A.F. ATTACK ON THE AIRCRAFT BEARINGS FACTORY AT LA RICAMARIE, IN FRANCE—a photograph made during the flash of a heavy bomb explosion: Aircraft of R.A.F. Bomber Command attacked a needle-bearing factory at La Ricamarie, near Clermont Ferrand, France, on the night of March 10-11. This unusual oblique picture shows a heavy bomb exploding in the target area. The light from the explosion lit up the surrounding countryside and enabled the cameraman from the R.A.F. Film Unit, who was flying in one of the attacking aircraft, to make the picture. The works at La Ricamarie turn out needles and complete bearings for variable-pitch propellers, undercarriages and wheels. It has a capacity of from 7,000,000 to 8,000,000 needles and 160,000 bearings a month

A PARIS SUBURB AFTER AN ALLIED AIR ATTACK. This picture was taken by the Germans after the district had been plastered during a raid on December 31. There are many German-operated war industries clustered around the edges of the French capital, which make the great city a target for our bombers

BRIGADIER TILNEY (on right), who was captured by the German when we lost the island of Leros, in the Dodecanese. He is here seen talking to General Muller, the German Commander—presumably shortly after the Brigadier's capture

BRITISH SOLDIERS captured (according to the Germans) in the Nettuno bridgehead. The man nearest the camera is wearing the shoulder-flash of the Irish Guards. This picture comes to London by way of a neutral country

GENERAL KESSELRING TOURS THE ITALIAN BATTLEFRONT. A picture made while inspecting his men outside the Anzio beachhead. The General is the tough-looking, burly man on the left; the other officer is his young aide-de-camp

THE IRREPRESSIBLE DR. GOEBBELS. "Europe is winning" is one of the slogans coined by the Propaganda Minister. This picture was taken in a Berlin war factory, which employs much foreign forced labour, whilst a meeting of the workers was in progress

BEHIND the SCENES in GERMANY TO-DAY

A Collection of Recent Pictures Showing Events in the Beleaguered Nazi "Fortress"

ADMIRAL HORTHY AND HIS FRIEND ADOLF HITLER. The Hungarian Regent, with other Hungarian leaders, was summoned to the Führer's Headquarters some time ago. Fresh demands were there presented to Hungary for a greater war effort, in view of the wonderful Russian successes on the Eastern Front. The Hungarians did not (could not, or would not) give Hitler satisfaction: they were detained at Headquarters until the occupation of their country by the Nazis was an accomplished fact; so the wily Regent has at last been trapped! Admiral Horthy, in this picture, is wearing the Iron Cross presented to him by Hitler when things were going much better for Germany

THE MAN WHO MAY BE HUNGARY'S QUISLING. Bela Imredy, a leading Hungarian pro-Nazi, of whom much may soon be heard in connection with the Quisling Government which the Nazis have already set up in Budapest. Ironically, he is wearing national costume in this special portrait

ANOTHER VICTIM IN THE LION'S DEN? According to a recent official announcement, the Croatian Prime Minister, Mandic, and Foreign Minister Peric visited the Führer's Headquarters on March 1 "to discuss all current mutual problems." Hitler is here greeting the unhappy Prime Minister, while the equally apprehensive Foreign Minister looks on (on the extreme right). Croatia was formerly part of Yugoslavia

A MILITARY CONFERENCE IN PROGRESS at the Eastern Headquarters of the Nazis. The following high officers are seen in this picture: General of Artillery Hansen, Commander-in-Chief of a German Army (in centre); Infantry General von Oven, commanding a German Army Corps (on left); Major-General von Mellanthin (standing on right); and Major-General Rein (sitting at extreme right). All are "discussing the Russian military situation"

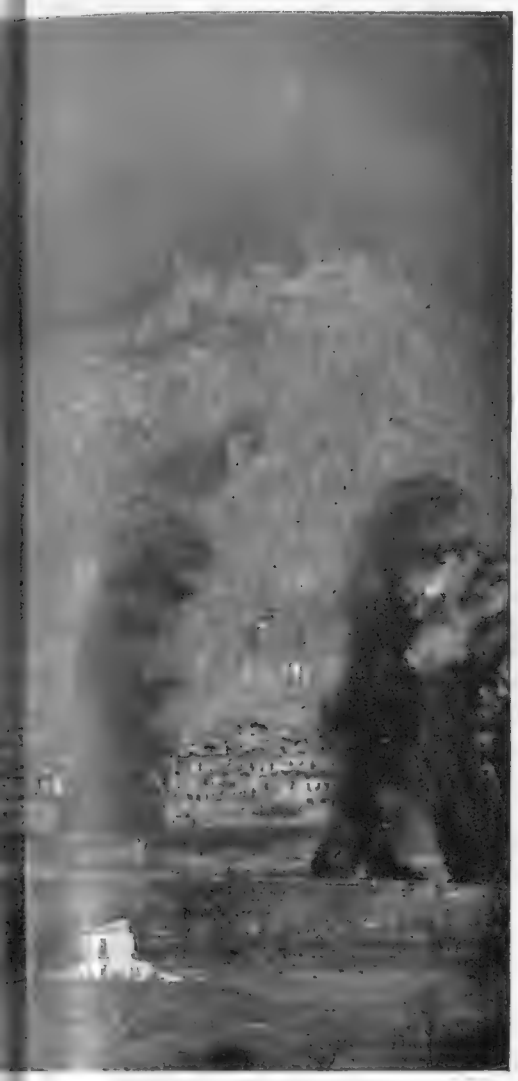
CARPENTIER MEETS MAX SCHMELING. The German boxer (on left) congratulates the French boxer in Paris on his fiftieth birthday. Carpentier has been named as a "quisling" by the Fighting French for his "collaboration" with the Nazis. Schmeling was wounded in Crete and discharged from the German Army a short time ago

THE SCENE IN THE UNDERGROUND A.R.P. CONTROL ROOM during an R.A.F. raid on Berlin. Seated on the right of the official with the telephone is Berlin's Police Chief, Graf von Helldorf

FAR BELOW THE BURSTING BLOCK-BUSTERS AND RAGING FIRES, Dr. Goebbels, Gauleiter of the German capital, studies a map of "incidents" as a raid develops. With him is the Director of Berlin's A.R.P., Gerhard Schach

THE TOWN OF CASSINO UNDER THE MOST INTENSE WEIGHT OF BOMBS EVER PUT ON SO SMALL A TARGET. Spout after spout of thick black smoke leaps u from the earth as the heavy bombers pass over. Castle Hill, crowned by the Rocca, rises in a hump on the extreme right; the lower slopes of Monaster Hill (which is crowned by the famous Abbey) are seen on the left. Two thousand five hundred tons of bombs were being rained down on the tow when this picture was taken on March 15

THE ATTACK BEGAN AT 8.30 IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 15. By noon the town was absolutely unrecognisable: it seemed to have lost all its original shape and character. Here and there gaunt houses were visible out of a pile of "rubble" when the dark clouds of smoke drifted away and it was possible to get some view of the work of destruction wrought by the bombers. This picture was taken during the height of the unprecedented attack



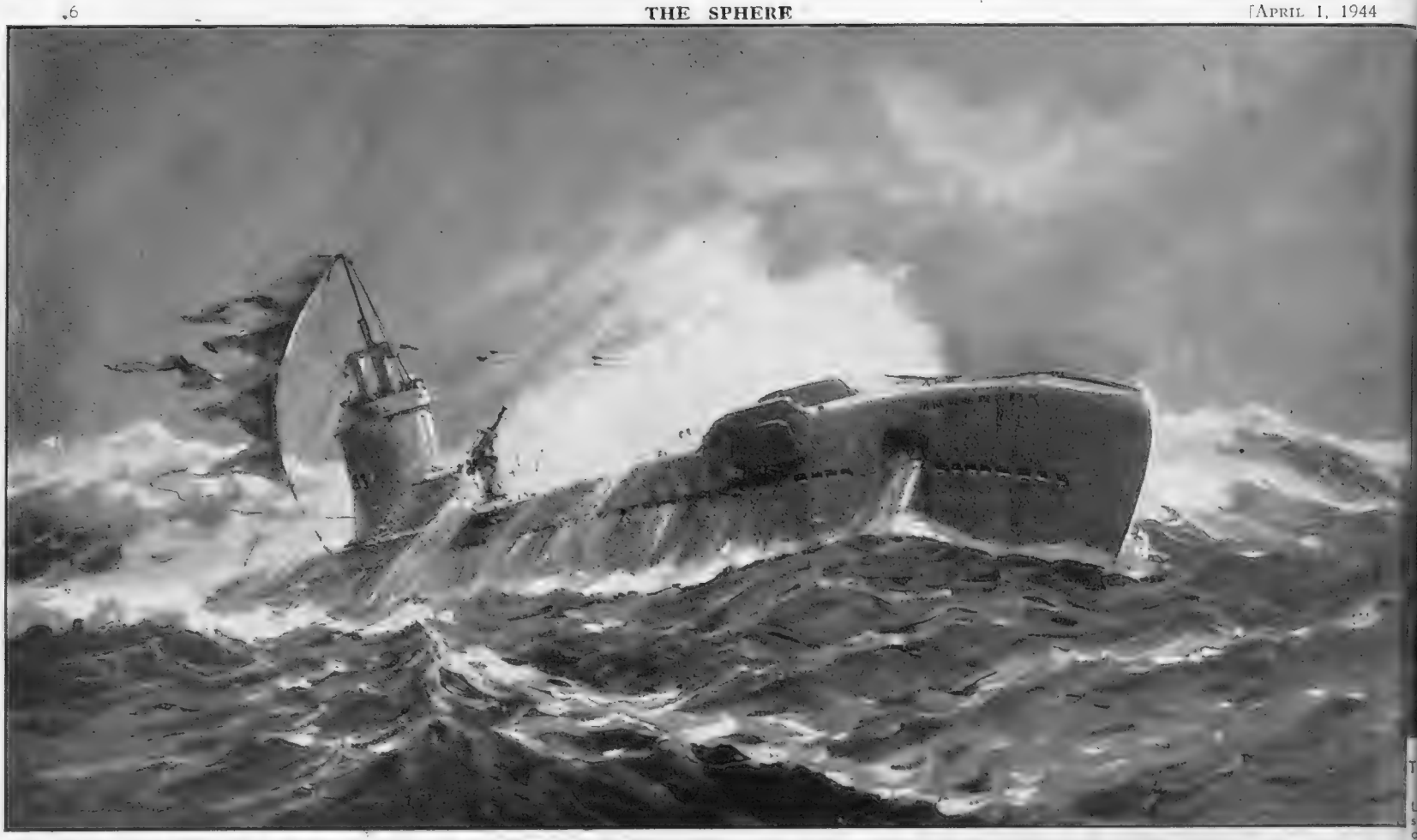
THE DENSE PALL OF SMOKE MOUNTING HIGH UP INTO THE AIR, with the whiter plumes of more recent bomb-bursts drifting with the wind. Behind the pall lies the town of Cassino, disintegrating under the attack

CASSINO LAID FLAT IN FOUR HOURS

Actual Pictures of the Terrific Bombing Attacks Carried Out on March 15

On March 15 the town of Cassino was flattened under the most terrific bombing attack ever witnessed in any theatre of battle. For long the town stood in the way of the Fifth Army striving to reach the road to Rome. Now it does not exist, except as a heap of rubble. Within the space of four hours, from 8.30 in the morning till lunch-time, a weight of 2,500 tons of bombs was rained down on the small target area by wave after wave of medium and heavy bombers flying ceaselessly above the doomed town. The intention was to reduce the many German strong-points to rubble and to smash all the Nazi defences. How this was achieved is revealed in the official pictures reproduced here, taken by the U.S. Army Signal Corps. After the attacks had begun, spout after spout of thick black smoke leaped up and coiled over Cassino until three-quarters of the town was completely obscured in the widening and deepening dark smudge. Only a few Messerschmitts got into the air to oppose the bombers and only two of the eighteen waves of attacking planes encountered any anti-aircraft fire. After the bombing had ceased, a terrific artillery barrage from massed Allied guns opened up.

THE GAUNT HILLS BEHIND THE TOWN OF CASSINO HAVE COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED UNDER THE PALL OF SMOKE, and the town itself is beginning to disintegrate as the heavy bombs drop without ceasing. It was intended to reduce Cassino to a mass of rubble and to wipe out all the fortifications and machine-gun nests installed in the hotels and houses by the Germans. The town as such has now ceased to exist, and the roadway to Rome is now within striking distance of the Allied forces

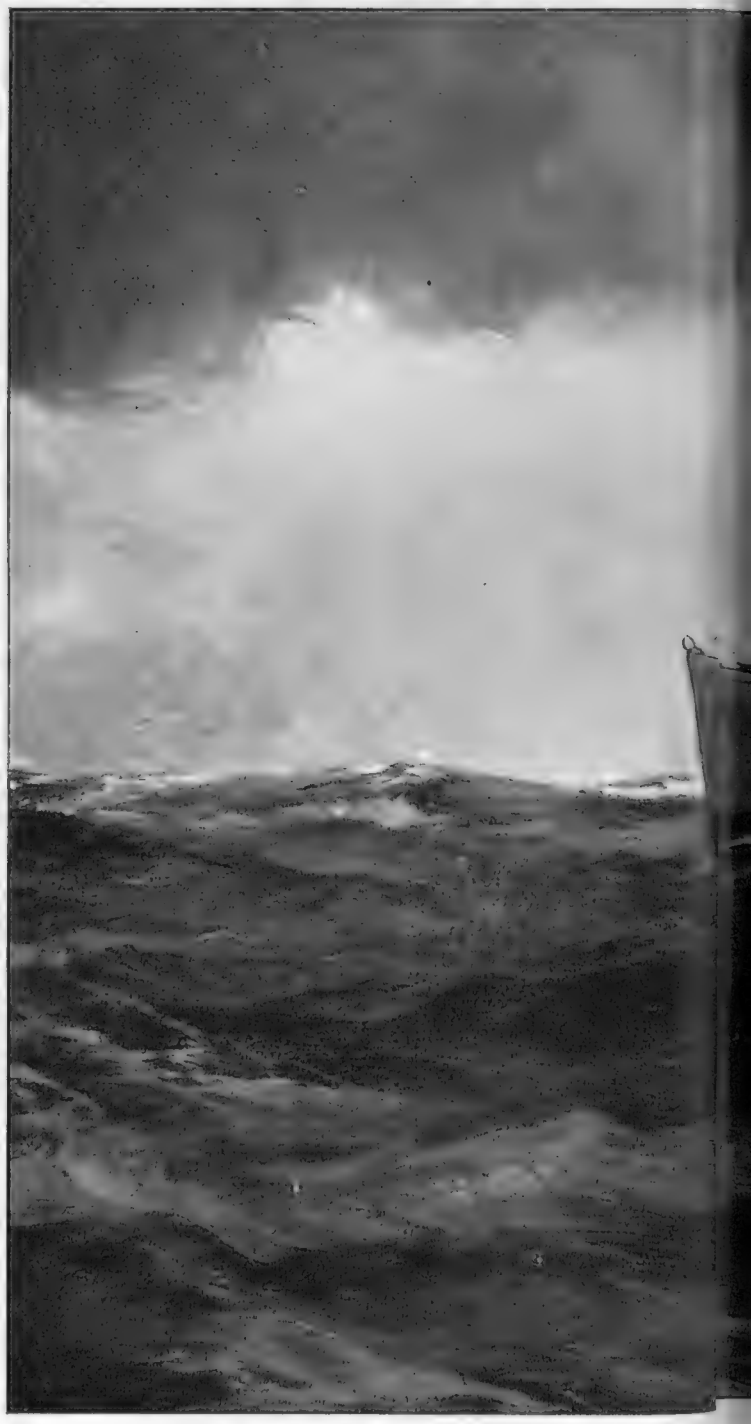


THE STIRRING STORY OF H.M. SUBMARINE "STUBBORN," the vessel which came back from almost certain death. Lying beam-on to the sea and disabled, t Commander hoists a sail to the periscope standard, hoping to bring the ship's head to the sea—*Drawing by Wm. McDowell*

Stubborn is the British submarine which lived up to her name during her last cruise off the Norwegian coast. Crippled by depth-charges, she went down in a crazy dive to almost twice the depth for which she had been tested. Her commander saved her by using his crew as human ballast, fought her back to the surface, and after incredible adventures began the journey back to his base. *Stubborn* steamed as fast as she could from the enemy coast, but she had not got far when her rudder suddenly failed to answer the wheel. She lay helpless in enemy-patrolled waters and it was blowing a gale. "The boat lay beam-on to the sea, rolling horribly," said Lieut. Duff, her commander. "I ordered a sail to be rigged to the periscope standard hoping that would bring the ship's head to sea. But in a few seconds the canvas was torn to ribbons." Only at this stage did the *Stubborn* send a signal for help. Destroyers were sent immediately, but for two days they were unable to sight the submarine owing to bad weather. Later she was brought safely into port

THE NAVY'S POSTMAN, and Other Naval Drawings

A WINTER GALE AT SEA: The sloop "Magpie" ploughing through heavy seas as she maintains station during an anti-submarine patrol. A picture taken during the twenty-day battle when six U-boats were sunk in the Atlantic by the Second Escort Group under Capt. F. J. Walker, to which the sloop *Magpie* belonged



On right—**THE NAVAL POSTMAN DELIVERS THE MAIL AT SEA: An Intrepid class destroyer (1,370 tons) passing the bags by cable to another warship during blustering weather**—*Drawing by Montague Dawson*

Much has been heard of the difficulties and delays in the post to our troops at the fighting fronts. The problem of getting letters to officers and men of the Royal Navy is equally complex. "Care of the G.P.O." tells nothing to curious eyes: the letter is slipped into a pillar-box, and starts on its journey. But the Navy, under war conditions, has swollen to a size and complexity which makes rapid delivery impossible: the number of ports and land bases where naval personnel are stationed has grown vastly; a man may be at sea in anything from a minesweeper to a battleship. Speedy destroyers are often selected to act as sea postmen. They carry the mail in bags: after the desired vessel has been located, contact is made by rocket apparatus firing a cord: then follow light cables which actually carry the bags across. This task is one which requires considerable skill under bad weather conditions both vessels steaming ahead as the mails are transferred. In the drawing on the right, the vessel acting as "postman" is a destroyer of the Intrepid class. These are ships of 1,370 tons which carry a complement of 145 officers and men. They were each completed in 1937 at an average cost to the nation of £320,000

THE DIFFICULTY OF HANDLING THE LITTLE CRAFT OF THE NEW NAVY: The square-built, practically keel-less vessels of the tank landing class require careful handling: the least touch of the helm and away she goes!—*Drawing by Wm. McDowell*

Landing craft, being designed primarily for beaching, are of necessity of shallow draft and not speedy. Being required to carry the greatest possible amount of men and equipment, they are of a bluff square form. These characteristics do not make for an easily handled vessel. Further, the larger types are required to carry loaded vehicles of considerable height and below deck, which results in a hull of high freeboard. The required combination of shallow draft, square hull form and high freeboard make a vessel which, though very stable, is not easily manœuvrable. The drawing shows one of the large types in a beam sea. The small amount of rudder-area available due to the shallow draft, combined with the effect of the wind and sea on the high hull, makes it no easy matter to keep a straight course, and much good seamanship and careful steering is needed. The keel of these vessels—the important thing in keeping a ship stable on its course—is only a "fin" along the after-part of the otherwise flat bottom. As nine-tenths of a landing craft are above the surface, the vessel is swung and buffeted off its course by every wind and wave

HOW THE AMERICANS WENT ASHORE FOR THE INVASION OF KWAJALEIN ATOLL, in the Marshall Islands—a picture taken during the assault on Namur and Roi Islands

The WAR in the PACIFIC

Some New Pictures from the American-Occupied Islands and from New Guinea

As a further step forward in the Central Pacific, the U.S. Navy and Air Force attacked the Marshalls in February and successfully occupied certain of the atolls and islands of the group. The preliminary bombardments by sea and air were both considerable, and they paved the way for the invasion by "Task Forces." The above picture was taken as a swarm of Coast Guard and Navy landing craft were heading for the beaches of Namur and Roi Islands in the Kwajalein Atoll, after the guns of the Fleet and aerial bombs had pounded the Japanese positions unmercifully. By the end of the first week, 19 of the most important of the 32 atolls of the Kwajalein group had been captured, including the primary objectives of Namur and Roi. The Marshalls landings were accompanied by the greatest naval concentrations in history

DURING THE ATTACK ON KWAJALEIN, IN THE MARSHALLS. Formed like a giant mushroom, a column of black smoke shoots skyward from exploding Japanese bombs and shells as carrier-based fighter planes blow up an enemy ammunition depot on Bigej Islet, in the Kwajalein Atoll, during the American operations against the Marshall Islands. Kwajalein, the largest atoll of this group, was captured in a combined American land, sea and air offensive in February. More than 8,000 Jap soldiers were killed in the action, but U.S. losses were light. Of the great number of American warships participating, none was lost

A "COMMAND POST" IS CONSTRUCTED BY THE AMERICANS: A scene from Arawe, in New Britain, showing how these underground positions are constructed by U.S. infantrymen. The heavy construction is effective in warding off mortar and light artillery shells and light aerial bombs. It has proved the most successful type for pill-boxes, command posts and any structure needed to house vital equipment in jungle warfare

DEATH IN A FOXHOLE IN THE MARSHALLS: An American Marine, rifle in hand, has just shot a Jap who had refused to leave his foxhole during mopping-up operations on Kwajalein. The incident occurred on Namur Island, where Jap foxholes had been reinforced with concrete blocks

THE REMAINS OF A MIGHTY JAPANESE "BLOCKHOUSE": This building consisted of three storeys: it was built of reinforced concrete on Namur. Nevertheless, it was totally demolished after the terrific air and sea bombardment just before the invading American troops went ashore

A SCENE IN NEW GUINEA SHOWING THE INDISPENSABLE PART PLAYED BY THE NATIVE BEARERS IN THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC OPERATIONS and the various types of work they carry out. Without these men, the task of the Allied troops would be almost impossible—*Drawing by W. G. Whitaker*

Without the help of the native porter in New Guinea, the operations in the hills and jungle of that difficult country against the Japs would have been impossible. "These native carriers," writes one informed expert, "work about six hours a day. If a porter works longer he wears out rapidly." A normal load is forty pounds: this can be carried up steep ridges, and the man can go on climbing for three hours with only short spells. The carriers are divided into detachments of about twenty men, each commanded by a "boss": their pay is ten shillings a month, with food, tobacco and clothing supplied. To give them more would be to demoralise them! The natives build their own camps along the supply route, and there they stay the night. Supplies for the Army are passed from camp to camp until they reach the actual battle zone. Roads do not exist in the parts of New Guinea where American and Australian soldiers are now fighting: for white men to take up their own supplies and fight at the same time would be an impossibility, hence the importance of the native bearer. They handle all types of equipment, and carry all the necessary supplies right up to the forward areas.

A STARVING JAP PRISONER is fed by his captors after the victorious assault on the Marshalls. The man on the left is an American-born Chinese in the U.S. Army

LEFT TO DIE BY HIS COMRADES. This wounded Japanese soldier lies huddled in pain after he was left behind by his retreating comrades in the Sanga River area in New Guinea. He was taken to a Casualty Clearing Station and received food and proper medical attention. So far as the Jap High Command are concerned, badly-wounded soldiers are not worth attention, and are frequently abandoned on the battlefield

IN NEW GUINEA: Natives carrying a wounded man down the slopes of "Shaggy Ridge" to the Army Dressing Station at Guy's Post. In the background is the Faria River with the Ramu Valley in the distance. This picture gives a vivid impression of the type of country in which the native bearers operate in New Guinea

THE WAR IN THE AIR

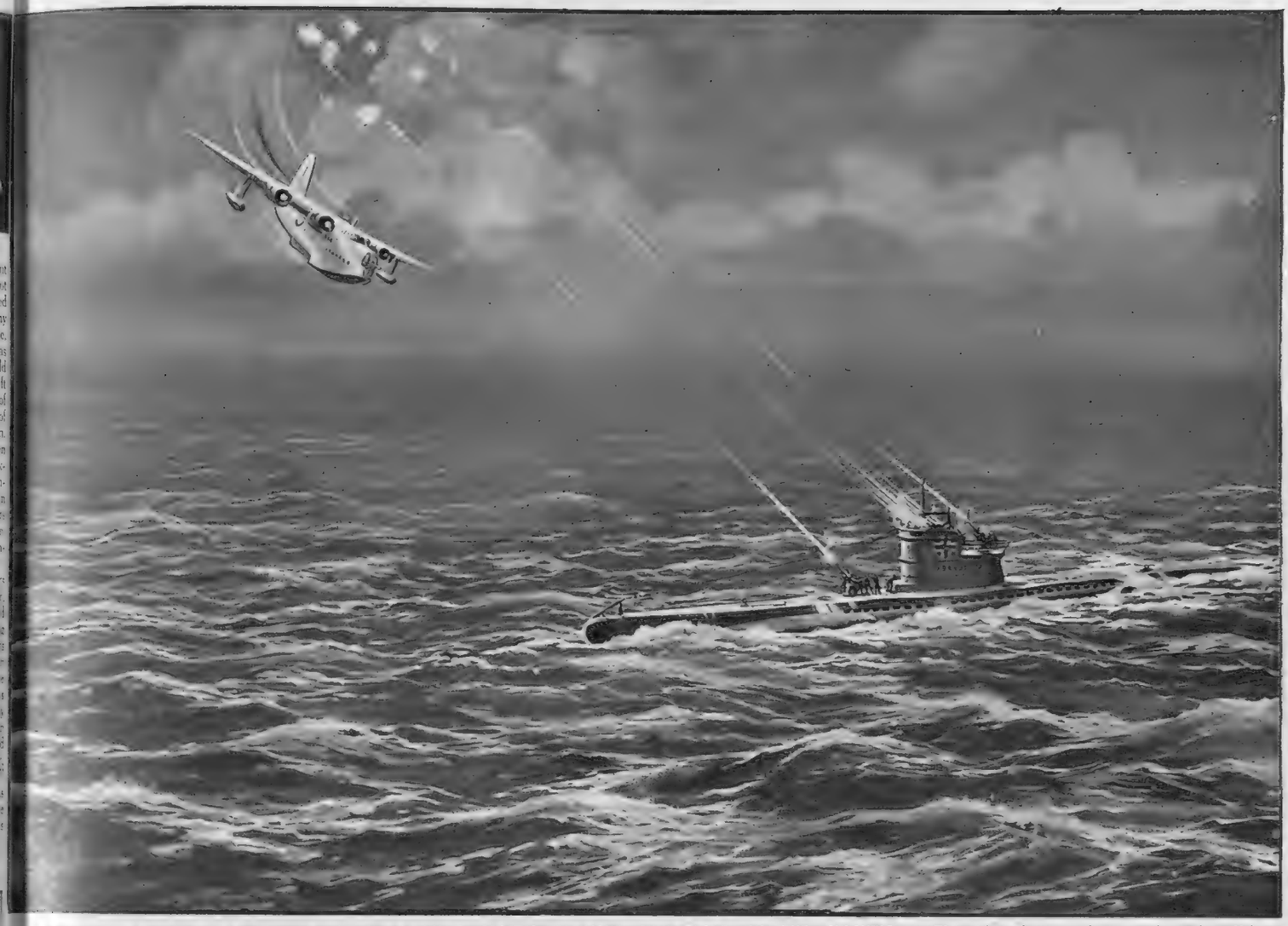
Bombing Germany in Sub-zero Weather Conditions; An Incident during the U-Boat War; An Air Station in the African Bush

Weather conditions during recent big raids on Germany have not always been favourable for the Allied bombers taking part. On many occasions the cold has been intense, the thermometer dropping as low as 58 deg. below zero—which is very cold indeed! The drawing on the left depicts what happened to the pilot of a British Lancaster when the nose of his aircraft was hit by flak over Berlin. On the return journey the unbroken stream of icy air flowing into the cockpit froze the pilot's hands to the controls. It was difficult to free them when he landed, and he lost two fingers in consequence, through frost-bite. That is what the airman's most searching and subtle enemy can do!

The American daylight bombers have also experienced severe weather, which some of them have described as the worst thing encountered during a flight over Germany. In recent days the temperature over Europe has been very low indeed, and the clouds have been so thick at times that the pilots could not see the planes flying only a few yards away on each wing. On these occasions the bombers have had to fly high to get above the weather, using "overcast bombing technique," as one pilot put it. As high up as 27,000 ft. some of the aircraft have still been in heavy cloud, with ten-tenths cloud beneath them.

LOW TEMPERATURES OVER GERMANY DURING RECENT BIG RAIDS: A Lancaster pilot on a flight to Berlin is frozen to the controls after the nose of the aircraft had been damaged by flak. It was difficult to free his hands, and he has now lost two of his fingers though frostbite—*Drawing by Roland Davies*

THE DANGERS AND DIFFICULTIES OF THE WEATHER DURING RECENT RAIDS ON BERLIN: a formation of Flying Fortresses passing through heavy clouds on the way to the German capital. On this occasion there was cloud up to 27,000 ft. and the temperature fell as low as 58 degrees below zero, many of the crews suffering from severe frostbite—*Drawing by Roland Davies* (*See notes above*)



AN INCIDENT DURING AN ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL BY A COASTAL COMMAND SUNDERLAND IN THE ATLANTIC: The aircraft captain outwits the U-boat commander by diving *under* the flak and destroying the submarine—*Drawing by Roland Davies*

The Sunderland was on patrol several hundred miles west of Ireland when the U-boat was spotted on the surface. The flying-boat attempted to make use of cloud cover, but the enemy sighted it and opened fire at 3,000 yards range with all guns. Instead of aiming at the aircraft, the U-boat put up a box barrage through which the Sunderland would have to pass to make an attack. "I made as though to climb above the barrage," said the pilot, "and then, when the U-boat lifted it, I promptly dived under." At 1,000 yards range the front gunner opened up with immediate and terrific effect. At 400 yards the U-boat attempted avoiding action with a sharp turn to port, and at 200 yards the enemy's fire was silenced. Depth-charges were dropped from 50 ft., and very soon the submarine simply disintegrated

On right—

The man who, before the war, was Marine Superintendent of Imperial Airways is now the Commanding Officer of a Royal Naval Air Station, which has recently been hewn out of the African bush. He is Commander C. Oliver Foley, O.B.E., R.N., and his command, near the coast of Sierra Leone, is H.M.S. "Spurwing," one of the newest and largest air stations in West Africa. This is situated in what, only a short time ago, was African bush. Many tasks have to be undertaken by "Spurwing's" aircraft. There are convoys to be met out at sea and escorted; anti-submarine patrols to fly over the Atlantic, perhaps developing into a U-boat hunt with destroyers and corvettes; coastal reconnaissance flights have to be undertaken; and, not infrequently, urgent up-country flights have to be made to bring a patient to the base hospital. The station's boundaries enclose a first-class modern airfield, as well as barracks and all the installations of a large naval establishment. An arm of a river runs up to the edge of the airfield, and here are moored the station's amphibious aircraft, which can taxi downstream and take off over the shipping they are to protect

A NAVAL AIR STATION ON THE BANKS OF A RIVER IN SIERRA LEONE, IN WEST AFRICA. The station has been cut out of the primeval bush: aircraft operating here include Kingfishers, Seafoxes and Walruses. In this quiet arm of the river minor repairs can be done while the planes are still in the water (See *notes at left*)

RUMANIA IN 1912. Before she had regained Transylvania, the Bukovina, Bessarabia and the Dobruja. In that year, the country had only a small strip of coastline on the Black Sea, and she was definitely one of the weaker powers in the Balkans

RUMANIA IN 1939. The Dobruja was gained from Bulgaria in 1913, Transylvania from Hungary in 1919, Bessarabia from Russia in 1920, and the Bukovina from Poland. This was the moment of Rumania's greatest expansion—but it was not to last long!

RUMANIA ASKING FOR PEACE TERMS?

What She Has Acquired—and Lost—in Territorial Possessions During the Last Thirty Years of War and Intrigue

THE statement reported by Dr. Benes that Stalin considered that Hungary must be forced to restore Transylvania to Rumania gave the opening for Rumania to prepare a break with Germany. For the return of Transylvania the Rumanians are prepared to yield the territories claimed by Russia on their eastern frontier. They are a Latin people, with a Latin language, looking to the West for their culture, and apt to despise their Slav neighbours. They regard Transylvania as the cradle of their race, and hate Hungary, who held it to the end of the Great War, for her oppression of the 2,000,000 Rumanians living under her yoke. These Rumanians did not occupy specialised areas in Transylvania (as did the Sudeten Germans in Czechoslovakia), but were inextricably mixed up with the Hungarians, making it an insoluble problem to divide the territory equitably.

WALKING INTO THE LION'S DEN. In April 1943, Marshal Antonescu was "received by the Führer for a two days' conference. The Führer and the Rumanian State leader once more confirmed their firm will to continue the fight until absolute victory." Marshal Antonescu (in centre) is here seen on his way to Hitler, with Field-Marshal Keitel on the left and State Minister Meissner on the right

In August 1940 Hitler made the vital decision, without considering the opinions of either State, of returning to Hungary more than half of Transylvania which had been given to Rumania by the Peace Treaty of 1920. Hungary rejoiced, but was not to be satisfied with less than the whole, and Rumania, forced to yield to the power of Germany, was in despair.

Though the Rumanian Government under General Antonescu (who has held complete power since the abdication of King Carol in September 1940) joined the Axis and sent millions of Rumanians to fight in Russia, the people have little heart in the war. After regaining Bessarabia which had been occupied by Russia in June 1940, the Rumanians had no desire to fight for Germany in Russia, even though great promises of land in the Ukraine were held out as bribes. They only wanted to return home and fight Hungary. Their losses have been tremendously high, 200,000 reported killed, apart from the very large number of very seriously wounded.

A glance at the three maps will show the changes which have occurred to the shape and frontiers of Rumania. In 1913 Rumania consisted chiefly of the two former principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia, with the small district of the Dobruja, lying south of the Danube, added at the Treaty of Berlin in 1878. In 1939 Rumania appears in the map increased almost to double her original size, by the addition of Transylvania, Bessarabia and Bukovina, ceded to her at the Peace Treaty of 1920. By 1940 Rumania had shrunk again in size, having lost more than half of Transylvania to Hungary, the Dobruja having been returned to Bulgaria and all Bessarabia and Bukovina having been taken by Russia. After Germany attacked Russia, the Rumanians again reoccupied Bessarabia, but already Russian troops are at the frontiers, and the peasants are hurriedly returning to Rumania, and there is every likelihood that Bessarabia will have to be given up again.

RUMANIA IN 1940. In September 1940, Transylvania was partitioned by Hitler and part given back to Hungary; the Dobruja again went back to Bulgaria; and Bessarabia had already been ceded to Russia, together with the Bukovina

ON THE RUSSIAN FRONT. On June 6, 1943, "German and Rumanian troops were celebrating the anniversary of their attack on Sevastopol." On this day Antonescu visited the eastern front with other high Rumanian officials, and here he is seen talking to Captain Wack of the German Army

GERMAN IRON CROSSES FOR RUMANIAN SOLDIERS. These Rumanian nationals distinguished themselves during the fighting at the Kuban bridgehead: when this picture was taken they were stated to be in action along the Crimean coast. A German officer made the awards of their Iron Crosses

ACROSS THE JUNGLE RIVERS IN THE ARAKAN PENINSULA : Allied troops pursuing the Japs as they retreat into the jungle in the Buthidaung-Mayu area—*Drawing by Edward Osmond*

THE FIGHTING IN BURMA

The experts say that in May the weather conditions in Burma will become such that all serious campaigning must then come to an end for the time being. But, meanwhile, Allied troops on the Arakan front have been following up their advantages and forcing the Japs to retreat back into the jungle after the break-up of the enemy attempt at encirclement of the British 7th Division.

The drawing reproduced above shows a typical fighting scene within this area : the British troops are fording a swift-flowing jungle river by night, with wary outposts protecting the operation from the river banks. The principal weapons, it will be observed, are Service rifles, automatic guns and mortars serving as mobile, short-range artillery

SEVEN MEN AND A BOY save Battalion treasures in Arakan : Fighting their way out of a Japanese ambush, seven Gurkha riflemen (accompanied by a five-year-old Bengali boy—a waif they had adopted) forced their way through the tangled Burmese jungle for seven days, to bring back the Battalion treasure-chest containing several thousand rupees. A gunner is here seen inspecting the Gurkhas' identity-cards on their safe return to the Allied lines

A SCENE AS THE 7TH DIVISION FOUGHT ITS WAY OUT OF THE JAPANESE RING : Men of the 1st Punjab Regiment of the Fourteenth Army are here seen carrying a stretcher-case aboard a special hospital sampan on the way to a Casualty Clearing Station. This picture was taken at the time when the Japs had encircled the 7th Division, hoping to force a way through to North-Eastern India. Their attempt failed, and the initiative in this battle area has now passed to the Fourteenth Army

PUNJABI TROOPS AS FIRE-FIGHTERS on the Arakan front : Villages in this region suffer from enemy bombs and shell-fire. Here Indians of the 16th Punjab Regiment are seen helping to extinguish a village fire after a raid which proved disastrous for the lightly constructed native houses

THE UBIQUITOUS JEEP brings a casualty to the Medical Staging point, from which he will be transported by sampan to the C.C.S.

A CRUDE STRETCHER is used to evacuate a Chinese casualty. A big American transport plane, used for supply, stands in the background

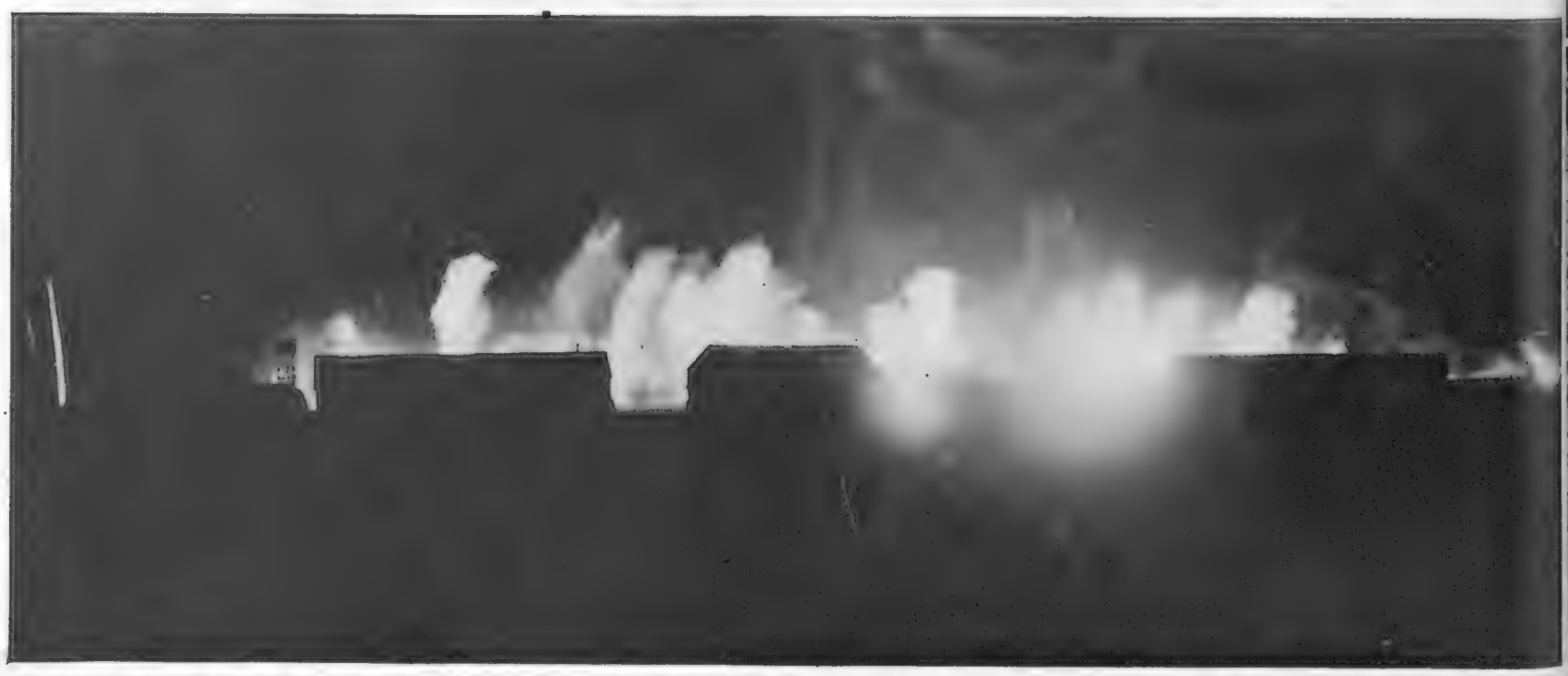
SCENES DURING the RECENT NIGHT RAIDS on LONDON

THE MORNING AFTER THE RAID: Firemen salvaging valuable antiques from a shop which had been damaged the previous night. Few of these articles of furniture were affected, although the building itself suffered from blast

U.S. SERVICEMEN SALVAGE THEIR KIT after the building in which the A were quartered was set on fire. The top floors are seen alig in the upper left of the picture

A PILE OF SALVAGED GOODS, from shops burned during the previous night's raid, heaped on the pavement. Shopworkers are rummaging amongst the miscellaneous collection in order to identify their own belongings

A LITTLE TRAGEDY OF THE RESUMED BLITZ. An elderly couple si amongst the belongings which were brought out of their hom when it was damaged during a recent night raid



AN UNUSUAL PICTURE, TAKEN BY NIGHT, SHOWING A CLUSTER OF INCENDIARY BOMBS BURNING ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF LONDON. The houses are all of the semi-detached, residential type: many of the bombs have dropped on open ground; those which have fallen on the houses are being tackled by the fire-fighting parties organised by the local householders themselves

A FAMOUS LONDON CHURCH: Charred rafters from the burnt-out roof have fallen on to the pews, but the altar is still intact. The churches of London have suffered very heavily

PRISONERS' PARCELS LOST IN A RAID. Red Cross parcels destined for British P.O.W.s were stored in a Territorial drill-hall. Many were destroyed when the hall was hit by fire-bombs: what remained were salvaged in the manner shown above

A CHEERING SIGHT "THE MORNING AFTER." The engine of a German raider, thrown fifty yards away when the plane was shot down on to empty shops within the London area

ST. PAUL'S BY SEARCHLIGHT. The extraordinary scene in Central London a few nights ago during the height of a "Luftwaffe" raid. The strange trails seen on the right come from the rocket shells sent up by our secret A.-A. projectors

THE FIREMEN AT WORK. Even while the bombers are overhead the N.F.S. are at work quelling the blazes caused by incendiaries. In many areas of outlying London, it is the little houses which have suffered most damage

The HOME GUARD and the COMING INVASION

The Present Position of the Great Army which Sprang into Being after the Dark Days of Dunkirk

By CHARLES GRAVES

ONCE again the invasion season has started, and the question of the Home Guard's military efficiency comes up for discussion. There are, of course, three possibilities. There is the remote chance of a seaborne invasion coupled with an airborne invasion; there is the possibility of an airborne invasion; and finally, the comparative likelihood of the landing of airborne suicide squads whose job would be to disrupt communications and sabotage everything within reach before being rounded up.

The War Office has already decided what role the Home Guard would play in any of these eventualities, but one cannot discuss them in print. It is possible, however, to say that the Home Guard would be exceedingly useful to the Regular Army in containing and helping to defeat any landing in this country, manning observation-posts, doing night patrols, holding bridges, barring roads, catching spies, and even sending out mobile battle patrols to deal with small squads from the air.

It is always a mistake to generalise particularly about a body of men so diverse as the Home Guard. What may be perfectly true of one battalion may be quite inaccurate about another. Even inside the same battalion there are astonishingly varied degrees of efficiency. This is only natural when so many members of the Home Guard are factory workers whose hours of attendance on parade are largely affected by their work, usually of national importance.

Apart from this, the situation in the depths of the country on the one hand or in the heart of a town on the other, has naturally affected the amount of training possibilities. With the shortage of petrol and transport, it has been much more difficult for commanding officers to get full parades in rural areas.

In the past year, more and more weapons have been issued to the Home Guard, at least one of which is still on the secret list, and as the Regular Army is given improved weapons, so surplus types are released for the Home Guard, and further powerful anti-tank weapons are amongst the latest to reach us.

Unfortunately, the extra weapons coincided with such a strict concentration on battle drill and battlecraft that the men had difficulty in mastering their new weapons; some even forgot their old ones. This tendency has been aggravated by the fact that the Home Guard is in a permanent state of flux as far as its personnel is concerned. It is true that the factory units and agricultural units are not affected in the same way. But the average town battalion in the Home Guard may lose 400 to 500 trained or semi-trained men a year, who are replaced by raw recruits—either youths or older men who had avoided Home Guard service.

This avoidance can be caused either by sheer lack of patriotism or, more usually, by the fact that the man's working hours are so long that he genuinely did not feel that he could give his best on parade. This factor has been disregarded, in many cases incorrectly, by the Ministry of Labour, with the result that Home Guard instructors find an increasing number of men on their hands whose hours of attendance per month are far too few to enable them to be trained up to a satisfactory standard.

Quite frankly, I do not think that the average Home Guard in a General Service (Infantry) unit is as efficient or as keen as he was two years ago, in spite of, or because of, the extra weapons and subjects which he has to learn. Map-reading, for example, ought to be absolutely unnecessary for a Home Guard in a town battalion to learn. It is his business to know the whole of his area like the back of his hand, and therefore he should not need to use a map at all.

It is platitudinous to recall that every Home Guard is now nearly four years older than he was in 1940. The older men are liable to get varicose veins from the stiff leather gaiters which they wear on parade. They are working harder during the day than ever before, because more and more youngsters are directed to the Forces, leaving more and more work for the more elderly survivors. It is gratifying, of course, for the sergeant-instructors to realise that if they do their job properly they can see to it that the youngsters who are called up into the Army from the Home Guard are at least partially trained and have a sound knowledge of such simple weapons as the rifle, bayonet, Sten, 36 grenade, and so on. But they themselves are much less fit than in 1940, as I saw recently when men of my own company were going through the gas compound. Two minutes of D.M. gas had a definitely deleterious effect on some of the older men, who were racked with coughing, vomited, and in some cases actually had to have smelling-salts.

That is one side of the picture. The other is the Ack-Ack units of the Home Guard which have been given a super-priority recently, in contrast to the latest plans for the G.S. units, who are now being trained in light rescue work and suspect that they are to be brought down to the level of the A.R.P. Major-General Lord Bridgeman, the Director-General of the Home Guard, has explained this in public quite clearly. He began with the rhetorical question: "Was this war made for the Home Guard or was the Home Guard made for the war?" Lord Bridgeman's argument is that there is logically no difference between the duty of manning A.-A. guns to shoot aeroplanes out of the sky and that of putting out fires caused by bombs which drop from them. Both are necessary for the defence of the country. Both are, therefore, duties in which the Home Guard can fairly be asked to take a hand if the need arises; and once again, it is merely a question of priority and of a realistic attitude to the needs of home defence. In connection with this, Lord Bridgeman emphasised the fact that he avoided calling in the Home Guard until the last minute, for this purpose.

The fact that goods made of raw materials in short supply owing to war conditions are advertised in this publication should not be taken as an indication that they are necessarily available for export

The Ack-Ack units, in the meantime, are being equipped with modern light A.-A. weapons, including Bofors, as well as 3·7's and the rocket guns with which the Home Guard anti-aircraft batteries were and still are equipped.

For the "Z" batteries, as we all know, have at last been "released." I understand that General Sir Frederick Pile had wanted long ago to have the "stop" removed from the rocket guns. But the vetoing was on a very high level indeed, and it was not until the Germans had talked at great length about their rocket installations in the Pas de Calais area that the ban was lifted in this country about our "devices."

This will certainly have improved the morale of the Home Guard who operate them. It was in 1941 that the first attempt to man these rocket batteries with Home Guards was made—at Liverpool. For certain reasons, nothing to do with the technical side of it, this did not prove a success. By June 1942, however, volunteers for Ack-Ack work were hastening to the new batteries. Many of them were gunners of the last war who were expecting to meet weapons to which they were accustomed. Their original chagrin was acute, but they were quickly to discover the death-dealing possibilities of the new "devices," as they were officially called. There was only one fly in the ointment—they were not allowed to wear the badge of the Royal Artillery, nor to use gunner ranks, such as bombardier.

Owing to their civil occupations, the Home Guard Ack-Ack gunners employed on these "Z" batteries do only one manning night in eight days, but their keenness and intensive training make up for their lack of practice.

To-day, in view of the hard work in handling the projectiles, the enlistment of Home Guards to the Ack-Ack batteries from the General Service (Infantry) units is confined to men between the ages of twenty-five and forty-one. Which means that the G.S. units now consist largely of men under twenty-five, middle-aged men, and Home Guards who are not mentally or physically fit enough to pass the medical examination necessary for their acceptance in the Ack-Ack units. The only exceptions to this rule are men whose hours of work are such that they cannot man the batteries one night in eight. It is only natural, of course, that the Home Guard directorate should take these steps and skim the cream of the Home Guard for what seems to be the only way in which the men are likely to look the Germans in the face—in action against the *Luftwaffe*. But it is discouraging for the officers and senior N.C.O.s of the G.S. units who have trained so hard for so long.

There is no doubt that hard training under capable Army instructors has raised the level of the Home Guard Ack-Ack to a high pitch of efficiency. There is no doubt, too, that apart from their success in helping to shoot down enemy aircraft at night, they would give a very warm reception to any enemy aeroplanes which attempted to dive-bomb or machine-gun any of the factories and other strategic points where these batteries of light anti-aircraft guns are located, and in this way the Home Guard will be performing an invaluable job in the event of invasion. I repeat, however, that the general impression of the Infantry units is that their chances of real active service even in the event of invasion have largely dwindled; and they think that they would for the most part be used, at the maximum, as lines-of-communication troops, but more probably for civil defence.

No doubt this impression is erroneous, but it is general enough as to have quenched some of the old bright enthusiasm of the volunteer days when invasion seemed a certainty.

THE HOME GUARD AND THE "Z" BATTERIES: These men operate the secret "rocket projectors" which form an important part of the anti-aircraft defences of Britain (as mentioned by Mr. Graves in his article). All types and all ages go to make up the Home Guard, whose services to the nation since the dark days of Dunkirk have been inestimable. When the Invasion of the Continent takes place, the Home Guard will again be called upon to carry out important duties for which they have been preparing since their enrolment

HOME NEWS-ITEMS in PICTURES

"H 11," THE PAINLESS TREATMENT WHICH HAS BROUGHT NEW HOPE TO CANCER VICTIMS: Mr. James Henry Thompson, who is responsible for its development, at work in his laboratory at Sunbury-on-Thames. "H 11"—a painless treatment which is said to ensure a fifty-fifty chance of regained health to cancer sufferers—is being used in hospitals and by doctors in Britain. The treatment usually takes six months or more, and is given by subcutaneous injections every day. The scientist who developed it is Mr. James Henry Thompson, a native of Liverpool, who took his science degree at Liverpool University twenty-three years ago. To-day he is Director of Research at Hosa Laboratories, Sunbury-on-Thames, and lecturer at King's College, London University. In 1931 he won the £500-a-year Melchett Research Scholarship

SPUN GLASS: Factory girls handling the threads of glass cotton-wool. There are only three factories in Britain making this material to-day: it is used for vital war work—principally for the insulating of battleships—as it never changes temperature in severe cold or tropic heat. The factory at Darlington (where this picture was taken) is working at full pressure, "spinning" the glass out of medicine, scent, and other bottles. A 1-lb. jelly jar makes miles of this thin, cotton-like thread, which is then woven into blankets for aircraft and battleship insulation. It is hoped after the war to use this fine material for curtains, sheets, and even clothes. The glass is first melted and then passed as a hairlike thread to huge drums. When finished, it looks and feels like cotton-wool, so fine are the threads into which the glass is converted

THE WEDDING IN LONDON OF KING PETER OF YUGOSLAVIA AND PRINCESS ALEXANDRA OF GREECE: The bridal couple at the Yugoslav Embassy just after the marriage ceremony. King Peter is twenty years of age; Princess Alexandra is twenty-three. They were married last week at the Embassy in Upper Grosvenor Street, with our own King acting as "Koum," or best man. All the royalties at present in London (except King Peter's mother, Queen Marie of Yugoslavia, who was unable to attend owing to illness) were guests at the ceremony. The bride was dressed in an oyster satin wedding-gown, with old lace over her hair and a sprig of flowers, in the Greek Orthodox custom. King Peter wore the uniform of a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Yugoslav Air Force

AN AMUSING COMMENTARY ON CONDITIONS IN EIRE TO-DAY—one horse-power through the streets of Wexford. Mr. W. Malone is a greengrocer in the provincial Irish town of Wexford. Eire has been heavily hit by the petrol shortage: hence Mr. Malone has converted his Austin car into a 1-h.p. cart, and makes his delivery in the manner shown above—a real horse supplying the horse-power. Note the closed-down filling-station by the roadside on the left

THE VILLAGE POSTWOMAN OF COCKERHAM, LANCASHIRE, now seventy-one years of age but still working. When Jane Preston was a girl she did not want to become a milkmaid; so she took on the job of village postwoman "till something better turned up." That was fifty years ago. To-day, at seventy-one, she has walked a total of 150,000 miles: every day, for six days a week, she trudges from nine to eleven miles over her round. The first three miles are along a rough road on the edge of the salt marshes of Morecambe Bay. When the wind howls across the flats the going is very strenuous indeed. Nevertheless, Jane Preston has only had three weeks off duty in all her fifty years as postwoman: she is not thinking of retiring until after the war

The World of Books—By Vernon Fane

STORIES OF THRILLS AND ADVENTURE

Political Excitement in Wartime Crete; A Chelsea Back-street Story; Two Masterly Simenons; Peter Cheyney's Bibulous Mr. Callaghan; A Plot to Kill Hitler

ONE of the best parlour games (Adults, for the use of) has always been for one member of the party to quote a passage of prose or verse and for the others to try to identify it. This is not necessarily as forbidding or as erudite a pastime as it sounds, and it is most entertaining when the players pick bits of whose derivation one is quite, quite certain—and quite, quite wrong. For instance, Mr. Hemingway did *not* write:

"It would be too much. Understanding this. For myself, no."

"A hell of a time for scruples," Burke said.

"It would be against myself. What do you expect?"

"I don't know. But we're on the spot."

"I do not follow."

"He says we are desperate," Stone explained to Nisus. Then to Burke. "It is nothing to us. But I understand how he feels about it. He can't go back and take another. Anyway, they'll be watching that place closely now."

"No. But it's us staying here, or taking a boat from someone."

"There are other means."

"Name them," Burke said.

It is an extract from a novel by Mr. James Aldridge, a writer whose style owes much to that successful American. THE SEA EAGLE (Joseph. 8s. 6d.) is first and foremost an adventure story, taking place in wartime Crete. Briefly, two Australians, left behind after the evacuation of the island, join up with Greek anti-Metaxists, and after helping them to rescue their prisoners, are provided with a boat in which to sail to Egypt. Such condensation gives no idea of the story's occasional poignancy or of the undoubtedly controversial political element. Though it has none of the romantic interest of the author's previous *Signed with Their Honour*, it is still a story which I recommend to you; a story which is far better than its dialogue.

Mr. William Kean Seymour has written an accomplished first novel in THE LITTLE CAGES (Hale. 8s. 6d.). It is a cross-section of the lives of a family living in Chelsea in poor conditions before the war. The children are grown up and married or occupied with less successful love-affairs. The mother is a working-class woman of sixty, who has daily work as a charwoman which helps to keep her and her invalid husband.

Each member of the family is shown as imprisoned in the cages created by class, circumstance, youth, age, idealism and disillusion. One daughter is married to a worthless creature with whom she lives in noisy squalor. When he deserts her, she brings her three children back to her parents' little home. Another daughter, who is a smart, good-looking barmaid, falls tragically in love, and has a baby by a young man who refuses to marry her, although his parents provide for her financially.

The son's problem is the same situation reversed; he is a weak, bookish young man of Socialist convictions, and falls in love well out of his social depth. When he learns the girl's contempt for the married state, he is deeply shocked, and they part for a time, only to resume their relationship later. In all this, as you will see, the agony is piled on pretty thickly, and the half-happy solutions to each little tragedy are never entirely satisfactory.

Partly because of this aspect, which is, after all, faithful to many lives, this is an honest and sincerely conceived novel.

This week's three contributions to detective science—or four, if you count Simenon in for his usual couple—are far above the average. First of all, there is that masterly French writer's ON THE DANGER LINE (Routledge. 8s. 6d.), which, following his formula, or his publisher's, contains two short but complete novels. M. Simenon abandoned some volumes since the detective-versus-suspect technique, and now concentrates on character and environment, whether blameless or guilty. The first of these stories is of a young man at whom his criminal associates hurl the worst epithet, that of "amateur," and who returns nostalgicly to the home town he had left twenty years before. Without much conviction, he pursues his business of confidence man and seller of bogus emeralds, but his real interest is in the little provincial town itself. He has wandered in and out of jobs, and in and out of prison, over half the world, but in this small provincial centre he finds the only existence that he completely understands.

In a desultory way, he earns a few thousand francs from jealous wives and old aunts, until he achieves the more solid comforts by marrying his astigmatic childhood sweetheart, the daughter of the local bootshop-keeper. He has no affection for her. This he reserves for the little slut who has followed him to the town, and it is in a fit of jealousy over her that he kills a man, and the story ends in violence and tragedy.

The second story in the book is of a complex creature, a kind of humane terrorist, who risks his life in order to prevent the accomplishment of one of his society's plots. To me, this story was not as satisfactory as the first, possibly because the phase of anarchism which it represents is now made pallid by greater outrages. Possibly, too, because it recalls an earlier and more genuinely exciting Simenon story.

In spite of which Simenon retains his lead in his own excellent field, and is still inimitable and a collector's treasure.

Some altruist should write to Callaghan Investigations about the state of their staff's stomachs. In every successive and eagerly-awaited novel of Peter Cheyney's, I read with awe and reluctant admiration not only of the incredible amounts of alcohol which Mr. Callaghan and his sub-sleuth Nickolls consume, but of the godless hours at which they arrange these drinking bouts. Mr. Callaghan, for instance, will embark with relish on a breakfast to which strong tea is only the appetiser for half a bottle of rye. As a meal, tea doesn't exist for him, and four fingers of Scotch are accounted an aid to celebration in the early hours of the morning. Neither he nor his leather-lined friend ever suffer from any physical effects, and that is only one of the admirable but incomprehensible things in their exploits.

THEY NEVER SAY WHEN (Collins. 8s. 6d.) displays these old pals, one elegant and brainy, one shapeless but faithful, at their tough best.

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So carols Mr. Cheyney, and so behave the ladies of his invention. For the ladies (or dames) of Mr. Cheyney's books play a more important part than was ever recognised by Conan Doyle or Edgar Wallace. They slink and they cavort and they drive powerful cars, and their clothes, which the author describes in the greatest detail, are faultlessly becoming. But none of Mr. Cheyney's heroes ever fall for them in a big—or matrimonial—way. It is strictly business with those guys, and if business happens to go along with a little fun and a lot of drinking—why, so much the better! As usual with this writer's work, there is a plot elaborate enough to fill the space of four sub-plots, and there is a very satisfactory conclusion. As usual, again, I enjoyed it all immensely, and recommend it to other readers for the same reason.

Mr. F. L. Green's intelligent thriller, ON THE EDGE OF THE SEA (Joseph. 9s. 6d.), is concerned with a London business man who becomes involved in a plot to kill Hitler. The story has nothing to do with trials of war criminals or post-war planning of a more than usually practical nature; for the period is June 1939, and the excellent scheme is intended to have a major effect on the coming war.

On a trip to Germany Foss, partner in a London export firm, is invited by von Pless, his Berlin sub-agent, and a member of an anti-Nazi movement, to take part in a plot to assassinate the mous.ached one. The plot is simple and apparently as water-tight as such things can be. Foss is to send a man out from England to do the job with the Movement's help, and Foss is to be paid £15,000 for his services. Foss can't resist this money, and arranges for a killer to be ready to leave for Germany at a moment's notice. All the details are to be fixed at the other end by von Pless, who is sending a messenger, one Rennenberg, to communicate them.

When this further accomplice arrives, it is evident that there is some mystery about him, and eventually he turns out to be a Gestapo officer. It is from this point that the author's indulgence in complication and intrigue begins to affect what is essentially an exciting story. Mr. Green's story-telling is indeed excellent, but, although he is to be praised for leaving no loose ends in his construction, it might also be asserted that he ties those ends up in too elaborate knots. His great talent is for extracting thrills from situations and for controlling suspense with the greatest effect. It's ingenious and worth reading. Not even the fact that it's indirectly concerned with Mr. Schickelgruber should spoil your pleasure.

A NEW BABY LLAMA ARRIVES AT THE ZOO: A male baby Peruvian llama has just been born at the London Zoo. It is a big calf standing over 2 ft. high and weighing 15 lb. It is distinguished by unusually handsome markings, with a white body and black head and tail. The mother is Dolly, a Whipsnade-born animal, who had previously presented the Zoo with four calves

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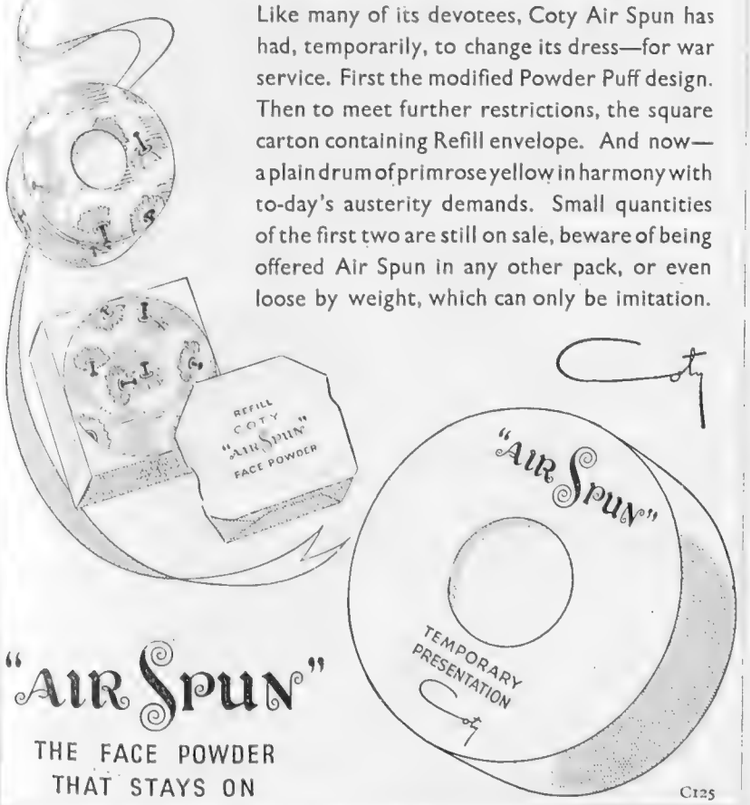

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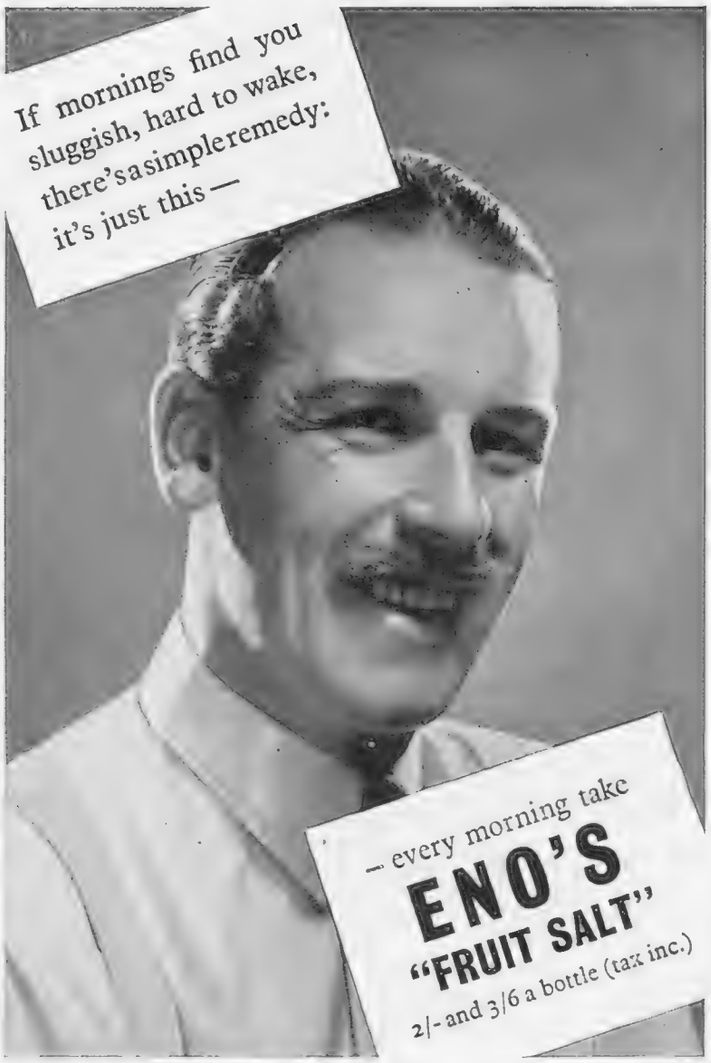

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